

Resource Management Plan

Record of Decision

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

RECORD OF DECISION
for the
**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA
CASPER DISTRICT**
Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte Counties
Wyoming

Casper, Wyoming
July 1985


Recommended:


Area Manager, Platte River Resource Area

Concurred:


District Manager, Casper District

Approved:


State Director, Wyoming State Office

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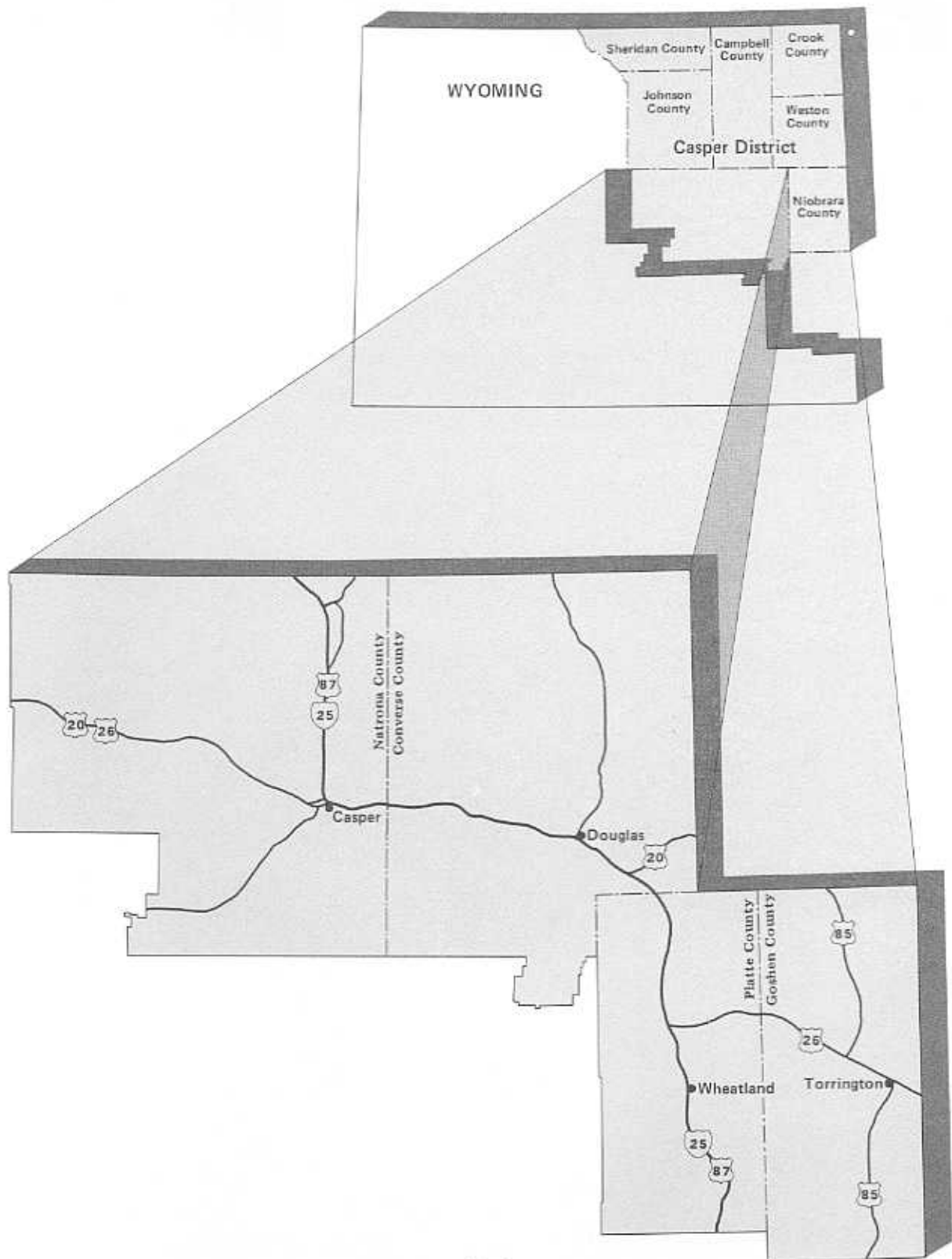
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ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	Area of critical environmental concern
AMP	Allotment management plan
AUM	Animal unit month
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior
"C" allotments	See appendix E in the draft RMP/EIS
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations. Numbers refer to title and part; that is, 40 CFR 1500 refers to title 40, part 1500.
C&MU Act	Classification and Multiple Use Act of 1964
EA	Environmental assessment
EEA	Environmental education area
EIS	Environmental impact statement
HMP	Habitat management plan
"I" allotments	See appendix E in the draft RMP/EIS
"M" allotments	See appendix E in th draft RMP/EIS
MBF	Thousand board feet
MFP	Management framework plan
MMBF	Million board feet
ORV	Off-road vehicle
PRLA	Preference right lease application
PRRA	Platte River Resource Area
R&PP	Recreation and public purposes
RAMP	Recreation area management plan
RMP	Resource management plan
RMU	Resource management unit
RPS	Rangeland program summary
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior

Abbreviations

USFWS	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior
VRM	Visual resource management
WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department



Map 1
Platte River Resource Area

RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND AVAILABILITY

Decision

The decision is to approve the proposed resource management plan described in the *Final Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Platte River Resource Area* (1984).

This decision is based on consideration of the 13 resource issues defined in the draft and final RMP/EIS, the environmental consequences of the alternatives, public comments on the draft RMP/EIS, the results of consultations with public agencies, Wyoming state government, private industries, and public land user groups and individuals. The proposed management plan is the environmentally preferable alternative.

The planning decisions for the resource management plan are defined in the "Planning Decisions" section of this document. These decisions will guide the management of the public lands and resources in the Platte River Resource area (PRRA).

Management prescriptions for 14 resource management units (RMUs) are presented in this record of decision. In all cases, RMU prescriptions have been guided by the planning decisions.

Activity plans and environmental assessments needed to implement certain decisions in the RMP may identify a need for variation in management action. Any such site-specific variations will be guided by the planning decisions.

New policy changes that may occur will be incorporated into the plan. New issues requiring resolution will be addressed through the plan amendment process or deferred until this plan is revised.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policy and regulations require that a rangeland program summary (RPS) be prepared and distributed for public information. The RPS is an integral part of this record of decision. Information that is normally required in a range program summary is identified in this record of decision with the following symbol: ***RPS***.

The following listed parts of the draft and final RMP/EIS are a part of this decision. Practices defined in the listed sections are guided by the

planning decisions and RMU prescriptions delineated in this record of decision.

Sections from Draft RMP/EIS

Appendix D: Current Grazing Leases and Categories
Appendix E: Allotment Categorization Criteria
Volume II: Maps (overlays)
Glossary
References

Sections from Final RMP/EIS

Appendix G: Summaries of Oil and Gas EAs
Appendix H: Summary of Coal Planning in the PRRA and TBNG
Supplemental glossary terms and references

Effective with this decision is the designation and management of two areas of critical environmental concern: the Salt Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the Jackson Canyon ACEC. These areas will be managed in accordance with the general provisions established in the Platte RMP/EIS. More specific management guidance is provided in the Salt Creek ACEC activity plan and will be available for Jackson Canyon when the wildlife habitat management plan is developed for that ACEC.

Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation

The Platte River Resource Area office and the Casper District are responsible for implementation and monitoring of the Platte River RMP. An implementation and monitoring plan will be completed by September 1985.

This management plan will be implemented over a period of ten years or more. Implementation of the plan is of course subject to the availability of funding and personnel and to changes in priorities. The effects of implementation will be monitored and evaluated continually over the life of this plan. The general purposes of this monitoring and evaluation will be as follows:

To determine if an action is fulfilling the purpose and need for which it was designed, or if there is a need for modification or termination of an action

To discover anticipated or unpredictable effects

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To determine if mitigating measures are working as prescribed

To ensure that decisions are being implemented as scheduled

To provide continuing evaluation of consistency with state and local plans and programs

To provide for continuing comparison of plan benefits versus costs, including social, economic, and environmental aspects

Monitoring plans will be developed for specific activities within resource programs.

Analysis of the data collected from the monitoring and evaluation process will provide information regarding the effects of the land use decisions and the adequacy of mitigation methods. If monitoring indicates that significant unexpected adverse impacts are occurring or that mitigating measures are not working as predicted, it may be necessary to amend or revise the RMP. Conversely, if implementation and mitigating efforts are highly successful, monitoring and evaluation efforts may be reduced.

Public Availability of This Document

This record of decision has been sent to all recipients of the final Platte River Resource Area RMP/EIS. Additional copies are available from Jim Melton, Area Manager, Platte River Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, 111 S. Wolcott, Room 111, Casper, Wyoming 82601; telephone (307) 261-5001.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

Resolution of Issues

The plan focuses primarily on the 13 resource management issues that were generated through a process involving intensive public input and the professional judgment of BLM personnel. The procedure by which the issues were established is described in appendix A of the RMP/EIS. The issues relate to protection of cultural resources, extraction of sand and gravel, fire management, forest management, grazing management, land disposition, designation of utility/transportation corridors, withdrawal of certain areas from mineral

development, obtaining access to public lands, management of recreation areas, watershed protection, management of wildlife habitat, and special designations for certain areas.

Alternatives

Formulation of Alternatives

The capability of the resource area to respond to the issues was evaluated during the planning process (analysis of the management situation). Fourteen separate areas in the PRRA were identified where specific management or dominant resource uses now occur or could occur in the future. These areas were designated "resource management units." Each RMU was analyzed in terms of the issues, the data available, and the ability of the resources in that RMU to meet future demands. Various management options were explored that addressed each issue in each RMU. This analysis was the basis for formulating the alternatives for the resource management plan. Each RMP alternative placed varying emphasis on resource protection and production and provided reasonable and implementable solutions for the 13 land use issues.

Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study

Several alternatives were considered during the planning process but eliminated from further detailed study. Those possible alternatives, and the rationale for dropping each of them, are discussed in the draft RMP/EIS, chapter 2. The alternatives not considered in detail were elimination of livestock grazing, major reductions in livestock grazing, reduction of restrictions in oil and gas areas, and various leasing levels for coal development. To satisfy the requirement for a range program summary, the grazing-related alternatives eliminated from detailed study are presented below, together with the rationale for eliminating each from further study.

RPS The alternative to eliminate livestock grazing was not considered for the following reasons:

It would not have resolved the grazing issues in the PRRA.

It would not have been practical or reasonable to implement extensive land trades to consolidate federal lands or to construct the fences that would be needed to keep livestock off public land intermingled with private and state land.

Benefits to other resources such as wildlife and watershed would have been minimal.

The alternative proposing major reductions in livestock grazing was not considered for the following reasons:

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Existing resource data would not have justified this alternative. Many situations that appeared to be resource conflicts during the allotment categorization process were found to be nonconflicting.

Few opportunities were found to improve range condition or resolve resource conflicts through a reduction in livestock grazing.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

Four alternatives were considered in detail in the RMP/EIS, and a preferred plan was presented. The four alternatives are summarized below.

Alternative 1, Continuation of Existing Management (no action), would continue present management in the PRRA, which has been guided by management framework plans (MFPs) and other approved land use and activity plans.

RPS Existing grazing leases would continue unchanged. Two AMPs would be maintained, and the level of development of range improvements would be low.

Alternative 2, Low Level Management, would emphasize the administration of mandatory operations and other nondiscretionary public demand work at a minimum level sufficient to comply with laws and regulations. Prescriptions for intensive management would be carried out only in high priority areas.

RPS Grazing administration would emphasize wildlife and watershed uses. Livestock reductions would be implemented on two allotments. Two new AMPs would be implemented. Development of range improvement projects and weed and pest control would be restricted to actions that would benefit watershed, wildlife, and recreation programs.

Alternative 3, Moderate Level Management, would emphasize resource development consistent with necessary resource protection. This alternative prescribes a more aggressive management level that would allow full use of resources while adequately protecting them.

RPS Livestock grazing use would increase by 7%. Eleven new AMPs would be implemented, and a moderate level of range improvement projects would be developed. Weed and pest control programs would be allowed under certain conditions.

Alternative 4, High Level Management, would emphasize a maximum level of production of resources and use, depending on the resource program being considered.

RPS Livestock grazing use would increase by 9%. Twenty-nine new AMPs would be developed, and development of range improvement projects would be restricted only by a lack of funds. There would be few restrictions on weed and pest control.

The resource management plan described in this record of decision is made up of elements from the four alternatives presented in the RMP/EIS. The elements were selected according to which alternative would be most environmentally acceptable and would best address the issues and meet the needs of each resource program. The rationale for selection of each element of the plan is presented in detail in chapter 2 of the final RMP/EIS.

RPS Alternative 1, Continuation of Existing Management (no action) was selected for all aspects of grazing management except for range improvement projects, for which Alternative 3, moderate level management, was selected.

The management plan for grazing was chosen for the following reasons:

Areawide range condition is generally rated good. Historically, there has been a gradual improvement in range condition.

Of the 10% overall potential increase in livestock forage, half could be achieved through livestock management techniques and half through the development of range improvement projects. The preferred alternative allows for both, even though it is weighted more heavily toward range improvement projects.

Overgrazing problems, when they occur, are generally sporadic and isolated, and they occur in different areas from year to year.

The analysis did not show significant use conflicts between livestock and other resource users.

The environmental consequences associated with this plan are discussed in chapter 4 in the final RMP/EIS.

Public Participation and Consistency

A public participation plan was prepared to ensure that the public would have numerous opportunities to be actively involved in the planning and environmental processes. Both formal and informal input have been encouraged and utilized. Public participation has been extensive during the preparation of this RMP. This participation is described in detail in chapter 6 of the draft and final versions of the RMP/EIS.

RPS Every grazing lessee was contacted either in person or by letter during the allotment categorization process. The following items were discussed: range condition and trend, existing grazing systems, range suitability, production potential, wildlife habitat values, user conflicts, public controversy, land patterns and acreage, and range improvement needs. These matters were considered throughout the RMP process.

BLM personnel held one additional meeting with Natrona County ranchers to present the grazing management portion of the draft RMP/EIS.

The Resource Management Plan

Planning Decisions



INTRODUCTION

The planning decisions detailed in this section will guide management for the public lands in the Platte River Resource Area for the next ten or more years. These decisions guided the development of the prescriptions for RMUs 1 through 14, which are detailed in the next section. All land use proposals will be evaluated for conformance with these decisions.

SEQUENCE OF DECISIONS

The land use decisions will be found in the following pages in the sequence shown in the following list, by the program numbers noted below. Decisions marked with an asterisk constrain, prohibit, or limit surface development. They apply to all land use proposals that involve surface development. Site-specific mitigation for proposals will be determined case by case in environmental assessments (EAs).

The maps in Volume II of the RMP/EIS define the areas where the decisions apply. Those maps are for graphic purposes only—specific locations are shown on detailed maps in the PRRA office in Casper.

Cultural Resources (map 4)

- *C1 Spanish Diggings
- *C2 Oregon Trail
- *C3 Bozeman Trail
- C4 Establishment of data base
- *C5 Protection of cultural sites

Energy and Minerals (maps 5, 6, and 7)

- M1 Oil and gas
- M2 Coal
- M3 Salable minerals
- M4 Locatable minerals

Fire Management

- FM1 Prescribed burning
- FM2 Heavy equipment use
- FM3 Fire suppression in bald eagle roost areas

Forest Management (map 8)

- F1 Forest management activity plans
- F2 Allowable cut

- F3 Harvest in the Muddy Mountain EEA
- F4 Forest demonstration area

Grazing Management (maps 9 and 10)

- G1 Grazing lease administration
- G2 Weed and pest control
- G3 Stock driveways

Lands (maps 11 and 12)

- L1 Land disposition
- *L2 Withdrawals
- L3 Corridors
- L4 Access

Recreation Management (map 13)

- *R1 Recreation area management plans
- R2 Off-road vehicles
- *R3 Environmental education areas
- *R4 Visual resource management

Soil, Water, and Air (maps 14, 15, 16, and 17)

- SWA1 Watershed plans
- *SWA2 Surface water protection
- *SWA3 Soil protection
- *SWA4 Slope restrictions
- *SWA5 Cedar Ridge
- SWA6 Fragile areas
- SWA7 Rims and Gorges

Wildlife (maps 18, 19, and 20)

- *WL1 Habitat management plans
- *WL2 Antelope habitat management
- *WL3 Deer habitat management
- *WL4 Sage grouse leks
- *WL5 Critical winter range for elk
- *WL6 Bald eagles
- *WL7 Raptors
- WL8 Turkeys
- WL9 Black-footed ferret habitat
- WL10 Riparian habitat

Special Designations (map 21)

- *SD1 Pterodactyl Track (natural history)
- *SD2 Red Wall (recreation)
- SD3 Salt Creek ACEC (soil, water, and air)
- *SD4 Jackson Canyon ACEC (wildlife)
- *SD5 Muddy Mountain EEA (recreation)
- SD6 Casper Sand Dunes (soil, water, and air)
- SD7 Natural Landmarks

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LAND USE DECISIONS

Cultural Resources

*C1: Spanish Diggings (48PL48)

No surface development will be permitted on the Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry (520 acres).

*C2: Oregon Trail

Sites along the Oregon National Historic Trail and the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail (called the Oregon-Mormon Trail in this document) will be managed so as to foster, promote, and protect from adverse impacts its significant cultural, scientific, and recreational values, as outlined in the National Park Service's *Oregon Trail Comprehensive Management Plan*. Therefore, no surface development will be allowed on the following sites, and the BLM will reassess the need to include other sites as they may be identified and to write management plans for sites that are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (955 acres). The Oregon-Mormon Trail sites marked with an asterisk in the following list will be nominated to the National Register (829 acres).

- *Fort Laramie A, T26N, R64W, Sec. 35, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of either side of the trail through lots 6, 7, 8, and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- *Fort Laramie B, T26N, R64W, Sec. 27, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- *Old Bedlam, T26N, R64W, Sec. 17, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- *"Prospect" (Ryan) Hill (HS-WY-060-25), T31N, R83W: Sec. 8, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 17, NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 18, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- "Horse Creek", T30N, R85W, Sec. 15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- Emigrant Gap, T33N, R81W: Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Bessemer Bend, T32N, R81W, Sec. 3 (about 3 acres)
- *Platte Island, T34N, R77W, Sec. 31, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- *Sergeant Custard, T33N, R80W, Sec. 15, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- *Glade Draw, T26N, R65W, Sec. 23, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Should the private surface owner so desire, the BLM would prohibit surface disturbance on the following Oregon Trail sites: Oregon Trail Monument, T30N, R70W, Sec. 19, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Oregon Trail Monument, T31N, R71W, Sec. 29, Center; Knob Hill, T31N, R72 W, Sec. 13, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; La Prele Station, T32N, R72W, Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Parker and Ringo graves, T33N, R76W, Sec. 1, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Battle of Red Buttes, T32N, R81W, Sec. 32, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; and Poison Spring, T33N, R81W, Sec. 20, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$. These sites were identified in the "Historic Trails Management Plan" issued by the Wyoming Recreation Commission in December 1984.

*C3 Bozeman Trail

No surface development will be permitted on the following parcels along the Bozeman Trail in Converse County: (1,030 acres)

- T. 40 N., R. 75 W.: Sec. 24, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 25, NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 40 N., R. 74 W.: Sec. 31, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 38 N., R. 74 W.: Sec. 2, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.
- T. 39 N., R. 74 W.: Sec. 34, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 35, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- T. 36 N., R. 74 W.: Sec. 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Each trail segment in C2 and C3 has been individually evaluated according to the "Guidelines for the Evaluation of Historical Wagon Trails" of the Casper District and Wyoming State Office, BLM. Trail segments that may be located will be protected until their significance is evaluated.

C4: Establishment of Data Base

A data base will be developed for Natrona, Platte, and Goshen counties with the use of a predictive model for indentifying areas of high, medium, and low probability for the presence of cultural resources. Continued Class III inventory probably will be required only for high and medium probability areas.

*C5: Protection of Cultural Sites

Surface development will not be permitted on the following sites, and they will be assessed for stabilization and management needs (120 acres).

- 48NA227
- 48NA940
- 48NA84
- Rock Cairn Trail (South Big Horn Mountains)
- 48NA368, Notches Dome Archeological District, (1,600 acres).

Cultural sites within the district that have been or may be nominated to the National Register will be protected so that surface development will not affect those sites.

Surface development proposals within the Notches Dome Archeological District will require an on-site Class III inventory before implementation. This requirement will be voided if the BLM completes a Class III inventory for all land within the archeological district.

There is one known geologic structure (KGS) within the archeological district. Production and development of oil and gas will be the priority within the KGS unless a cultural site is of National Register quality. In that case, the cultural site will

Planning Decisions

be protected. Proposals in the rest of the archeological district will be evaluated case by case.

Energy and Minerals

M1: Oil and Gas

BLM-administered lands will remain open to oil and gas leasing and exploration subject to the following provisions:

Oil and gas leasing will be subject to the Wyoming BLM standard stipulations quoted at the end of this section. Leasing and development will be subject to the planning decisions. Mitigating measures prescribed in the Platte River Oil and gas EA (USDI, BLM 1982) and the South Big Horn oil and gas EA (USDI, BLM 1979) will be applied case by case.

No leasing will occur within Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3. Lands within 1 mile of this reserve are under restricted oil and gas leasing.

The following tracts will not be leased for oil and gas.

- T. 31 N., R. 83 W.: Section 25, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 26, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$. This area is characterized by steep slopes, highly erosive soil, and very sparse vegetation.
- T. 39 N., R. 80 W.: Section 20, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 21, N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 28, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$. These parcels are located in the Castle Creek sensitive drainage. Slopes are very steep and soils are highly erosive.
- T. 40 N., R. 77 W.: Section 15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 22, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$. These parcels are in a timbered drainage. Slopes are in excess of 25% and soils are very erosive.

The following standard stipulations have been developed to standardize the wording of stipulations used by the BLM in Wyoming. They will be attached to all oil and gas leases issued in the Platte River Resource Area and applied as necessary to each lease. These consolidated stipulations replace those listed in appendix C of the draft RMP/EIS. Changes in these standards that may occur will be accomplished by plan maintenance.

Surface Disturbance Stipulation (used on all leases)

Surface disturbance will be prohibited in any of the following areas or conditions. Modifications to this limitation may be approved in writing by the Authorized Representative.

- 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 a quarter mile or visual horizon (whichever is closer) from a historic trail.
- e. Construction during periods when the soil material is saturated, frozen, or when watershed damage is likely to occur.

Guidance:

The surface disturbance stipulation will be included on all lease parcels. The intent of this stipulation is to inform interested parties (potential lessees) that, when one or more of the five (a through e) environmental conditions exist, surface disturbing activities will be prohibited unless or until the lessee or his designated operator and the surface management agency (SMA) arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts. This negotiation will occur prior to development of the lease and become a condition for approval in the Application for Permit to Drill (APD).

Specific threshold criteria (e.g., 500 feet from water) have been established based upon the best information available. However, geographical areas and time periods of concern must be delineated at the field level (i.e., "surface water and/or riparian areas" may include both intermittent and ephemeral water sources or may be limited to perennial surface water). These decisions, where possible, should be documented in the land use planning documents.

Wildlife Stipulation

- a. To protect important big game ungulate winter habitat, drilling and other surface disturbing activity will not be allowed during the period from November 15 to April 30 within certain areas encompassed by this lease. The same criteria applies to elk calving areas from the period of May 1 to June 30. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Modifications to this limitation in any year may be approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.
- b. To protect important raptor and/or sage and sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat, drilling and other surface disturbing activity will not be allowed during the period from February 1 to July 31 within certain areas encompassed by this lease. This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells. Modifications to this limitation in any year may be approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.
- c. No surface occupancy will be allowed on that portion of the lease within the area (legal description) for the purpose of protecting (e.g., sage/sharp-tailed grouse strutting, and/or other species activity) habitat. Modifications to this limitation in any year may be approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

Guidance

The wildlife stipulation is intended to provide two basic types of protection, seasonal restriction (a and b) and no surface occupancy (c). 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 can and should be refined as necessary based upon current biological data at the time the APD is processed. It should eventually become a condition for approval in the Application for Permit to Drill.

The seasonal restriction section of the stipulation identifies three groups of species and delineates two similar timeframe restrictions. These two restrictions are big game ungulates and raptors/grouse. The big game ungulates including elk, moose, deer, antelope, and big horn sheep all require protection of crucial winter range between November 15 and April 30. Raptors including eagles, accipiters, falcons, hawks, osprey, ferruginous hawks, burrowing owls, and sage and sharp-tailed grouse all require nesting protection during periods between February 1 and July 31.

The no surface occupancy section of the stipulation is intended for protection of unique wildlife and wildlife habitat values

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(e.g., sage grouse strutting grounds, known threatened and endangered species habitat, etc.) which cannot be protected using seasonal restrictions.

Special Resource Protection Stipulation

In order to protect (resource value), the District Manager reserves the right to prohibit surface disturbance (i.e., within a specific distance of the resource value or between date-to-date) in (legal subdivision). This limitation does not apply to operation and maintenance of producing wells. Modifications to this limitation may be approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

Examples:

- a. Recreation areas.
- b. Special historic features.
- c. Special management areas.
- d. Sections of major rivers.
- e. Prior existing rights-of-way.
- f. Occupied dwellings.

Guidance

The special resource protection stipulation is intended for use only in the few very specialized, site-specific situations where one of the other three general stipulations will not adequately address the concern. The resource value, location, and specific restriction must be clearly identified. A detailed plan addressing mitigation and special restrictions on development will be required prior to the development of a lease and become a condition for approval in the Application for Permit to Drill.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

No surface occupancy will be allowed on the following described lands (legal subdivision/area) because of (resource value). See examples.

Examples:

- a. Recreation areas (campgrounds, historic trails, national monuments, etc.).
- b. Major reservoirs/dams, etc.
- c. Special management areas (ACEC, wild and scenic rivers, etc.).

Guidance:

The no surface occupancy stipulation (NSO) is intended for use only when other stipulations are determined insufficient to adequately protect the public interest and/or as an alternative to "no leasing." The legal subdivision and resource value of concern must be identified in the stipulation and be tied to a land use planning document. There will be no exceptions to this stipulation granted without modification of the appropriate land use plan or unless an exception is approved by the State Director.

Washington Office guidance advises that when considering the no lease option, a rigorous test must be met and fully documented in the record. This test must be based on the stringent standards of the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Since rejection of a lease offer is more severe than the most restrictive stipulation, the record must show that consideration was given to leasing subject to reasonable stipulations, including a NSO stipulation. The record must also show that stipulations were determined to be insufficient to adequately

protect the public interest. A no-lease decision should not be made solely because it appears that directional drilling would be unfeasible, especially where a NSO lease may be acceptable to a potential lessee. In such cases the opportunity to accept or refuse a NSO lease should be left to the potential lessee. Exception(s) by the District Manager to the NSO stipulation will be subject to the same test used to initially justify the imposition of this stipulation. If the NSO stipulation is justified but upon development less restrictive stipulations would adequately protect the public interest, then an exception to the NSO stipulation could be granted. The record must show that because conditions and uses have changed, less restrictive stipulations will protect the public interest.

M2: Coal

Federal coal land, as identified in the Converse County Coal Amendment (USDI, BLM 1983a), can be considered for further leasing through the competitive leasing program, emergency leasing, lease modifications, or exchanges. Appendix H in the final RMP/EIS provides information on lease stipulations that apply to federal coal lands.

Delineated coal tracts on federal coal lands will be available for competitive leasing in one lease sale beginning with a second round Powder River lease sale. Tracts previously considered for leasing and newly delineated tracts will be available for consideration. Any coal tract not selected for inclusion in a lease sale or any tract included in a lease sale but not sold can be either redelineated or dropped from further consideration for sale.

The coal plan amendment completed by the Forest Service for land within the Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG) boundary (USDA, FS 1982) will serve as the basis for coal planning related to federal coal lands in the TBNG that are available for further consideration for coal leasing. The BLM will apply the findings of the coal screening process contained in that plan amendment concerning federal coal within the TBNG, as defined on the Location map in appendix B of that plan amendment and further defined in the Medicine Bow Forest Plan. Leasing stipulations defined in the Medicine Bow plan will be applied as necessary. PRLAs inside the TBNG will be processed in accordance with the Forest Service plans and the EAs prepared by the Forest Service.

Coal leasing may be deferred in producing oil and gas fields where coal development would interfere with oil and gas operations and the economic recovery of the existing oil and gas resource, except where it can be shown that economic recovery of oil and gas has been or will be completed before coal mining operations

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would begin.

On coal leases where mining and reclamation plans have been approved, oil and gas drilling and production will be authorized where such activities would not conflict with coal mining. If conflicts cannot be resolved, oil and gas drilling and production will be deferred. Proposals will be evaluated case by case, and coal mining and oil and gas operations will be allowed where conflicts can be avoided or mitigated.

All federal coal lands with mining claims are acceptable for coal development and for further consideration for leasing subject to valid existing rights.

Federal coal lands within the Orpha Stock Trail Driveway are acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing or exchange, subject to stipulations and mitigation requirements that would resolve any conflicts, unless the withdrawal is revoked.

All federal coal lands overlying shallow aquifers, including those within the Fort Union and Wasatch aquifers, are acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing.

M3: Salable Minerals

Mineral materials such as sand and gravel, moss rock, flagstone, and scoria will be available on demand for sale and for free use, subject to conditions and stipulations developed case by case, so that efficient use can be made of the mineral resource. Materials in all low, moderate, and high potential areas are available except those in an area within ¼ mile of the North Platte River for its entire length in the PRRA. Sand and gravel operations authorized before August 1, 1984, on federal sand and gravel within the ¼-mile buffer would be continued.

Where possible, the routing of access roads will be made in conjunction with the surface owner.

M4: Locatable Minerals

All BLM-administered mineral estate, except in areas specifically withdrawn from mineral location, will remain open for prospecting for and development of locatable minerals. Development is subject to the regulations contained in 43 CFR 3809.

The following areas are withdrawn from mineral location.

Public water reserves
North Platte River protective withdrawal
Leased or patented recreation and public purpose lands
Muddy Mountain Recreation and Environmental Education

Area
Pathfinder Wildlife Refuge
Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3

Fire Management

Full suppression will be maintained throughout the resource area as directed by the normal fire year plan.

FM1: Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning will be implemented to manipulate vegetation on areas identified for treatment in the range, forestry, and wildlife programs. Table 1 defines prescription burning by RMU. Acreage figures may fluctuate pending a refinement of field surveys.

FM2: Heavy Equipment Use

Heavy equipment will not be used to construct firelines in areas containing wagon ruts of the Oregon and Bozeman trails. Cultural resource specialists or area resource specialists will be consulted for locations of identified wagon ruts before the use of or anticipated use of heavy equipment. Exceptions may be permitted for the protection of human life.

Heavy equipment will not generally be used to construct firelines in elk critical winter range. The PRRA wildlife biologist will be consulted when fires threaten elk critical winter range. If heavy equipment is used, rehabilitation work on lines will begin immediately after the fire is declared out.

FM3: Fire Suppression in Bald Eagle Roost Areas

To the extent possible, trees will not be cut during fire suppression in bald eagle roost areas or within 200 yards of the roosts on Casper Mountain (Jackson Canyon and Little Red Creek) and on Pine Mountain. Exceptions will be permitted when necessary to control fires that threaten human life or private property. The PRRA wildlife biologist will be consulted when fires threaten the eagle roost areas.

Forest Management

F1: Forest Management Activity Plans

A detailed timber management activity plan will

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TABLE 1
PROPOSED FIRE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Resource Management Unit	BLM Surface Acreage	Acreage of Priority Full Suppression Zones	Retain Full Suppression and Buffer Zones Acreage	Acreage of Limited Suppression	Acreage of Prescribed Burning	Acreage of Prescribed Burning in Ten Years
1. South Big Horns	380,770	17,000	63,770	300,000	7,500	2,500
2. Pine Mountain/Goldeneye	26,480	5,950	8,350	12,000	550	550
3. Oregon Trail	a					
4. Fremont Canyon	11,680	500	1,780	9,400	150	150
5. Salt Creek	90,900	23,000	34,500	33,400	350	350
6. Sand Dunes	29,820	300	5,600	23,920		
7. North Platte River	a	200				
8. Casper Mountain/Muddy Mountain	31,360	8,360	10,840	12,160	700	500
9. Bates Hole	109,440	1,900	7,540	100,000	7,000	3,500
10. Laramie Range-foothills	15,320	7,750	7,570			
11. Ross	27,560	2,560	17,200	7,800	300	
12. Muleshoe Flat/Richeau	51,890		33,970	17,920		
13. Table Mountain/Springer/Rawhide	3,015		3,015			
14. Platte River Resource Area	621,218	16,640	256,418	348,160	10,450	2,450
TOTAL	1,399,453	84,160	450,732	864,760	27,000	10,000
Percentage of resource area	100	6	32	62	2	1

a. Because this is a linear area, the acreage has been included with that of RMU 14.

be developed for 17 areas (13,590 acres). Primary management will be directed at ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine composition.

Nine forest areas will be evaluated, and timber will be harvested from 1985 to 1990 in these areas: Esterbrook, Hartville-Sunrise, Negro Hill, Banner Mountain, Coal Mountain, Bessemer Mountain, Salt Canyon, Deer Creek, and Grave Springs. Eight forest areas will be evaluated and timber will be harvested from 1990 to 1995 in these areas: South Cottonwood-Notches Dome, Baldy Ridge, Rattlesnake Mountain, Badwater, Sioux Pass, Pine Mountain, Bates Creek-Sheep Creek, and Squaw Mountain.

Silvicultural practices will complement the timber harvesting and increase stand vigor. At least 50% of the lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine volume within stands will be cut either by selective cutting or by clearcutting. Lodgepole pine seedling stands will be thinned through Christmas tree sales. Commercial lodgepole pine

stands will be thinned by sales of posts and poles and fuelwood. Overmature trees infested by dwarf mistletoe will be cut and removed. Clearcutting of 3 to 5 acres will provide for natural regeneration. If the stand is not regenerating naturally in three years, artificial regeneration will be undertaken.

F2: Allowable Cut

The allowable cut will be about 6 million board feet (MMBF) through 1995. The annual cut will average about 600 thousand board feet (MBF) over the ten-year life of this plan. In the first five years, the cut will be about 750 MBF per year; for the next ten years it will be 500 MBF per year.

Little Red Creek, Jackson Canyon, and Muddy Mountain will have priority for timber harvest. The cut will be directed toward intensive pine beetle control. Secondary attention will be given to Deer Creek, Negro Hill, Grave Springs, and Baldy Ridge. Primary areas will be harvested by 1990, secondary areas by 1995.

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F3: Harvest in Muddy Mountain EEA

Thinning will be done throughout the 1,200-acre Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Area (EEA) as needed. About 200 MBF per year will be harvested annually for five years. The cut will be directed toward beetle control. After the five-year period, the annual cut in the EEA will be about 25 MBF.

F4: Forest Demonstration Area

About 100 MBF of posts, poles, and fuelwood will be harvested annually from the forest demonstration area on Muddy Mountain through 1995 (approximately 400 acres).

Grazing Management

G1: Grazing Lease Administration*^{RPS}*

We will maintain 407 leases authorizing 205,071 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock forage on 1,442,753 acres of public land.

We will continue, and revise where necessary, the Bates Creek and Table Mountain allotment management plans (AMPs). Leases will be revised as necessary to accommodate expected increases in AUMs from more intensive range management.

Allotment management plans, cooperative management agreements, and coordinated management plans will be initiated as necessary on priority allotments provided funding and personnel are available to handle the workload.

Range improvement projects that will be completed over the long term are listed in table 2. Studies and monitoring to be implemented over the long term are listed in table 3. "C" (custodial) allotments will be not monitored unless conflicts are reported. Range projects to be implemented from 1985 through 1995 are listed under "RMU 14" in the "Resource Management Prescriptions" section.

G2: Weed and Pest Control

We will continue the existing weed and grasshopper control programs. Control of prairie dogs is subject to the conditions specified in WL-9.

G3: Stock Driveways

Stock driveways will be utilized to the fullest extent possible, and standards will be developed for livestock use other than trailing.

When there is an established stock driveway and it is not being used for trailing, action will be taken to cancel the stock driveway withdrawal and to fence it into adjacent allotments or to issue leases to adjacent BLM lessees. When stock driveways are used only slightly for trailing and are not fenced, the BLM will take action to lease the driveway to the grazing lessee whose lease adjoins the area. AUMs will be reserved for trailing. If there is forage left after the trailing period on fenced stock driveways, these areas may be leased for supplemental use on a year-to-year basis. All other driveways will be used exclusively for trailing livestock.

Lands

L1: Land Disposition

Recreation and Public Purposes Act

A total of 1,700 acres has been specifically identified for lease or disposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act as follows: Casper Mountain, 480 acres; Glendo Reservoir, 92 acres; Gray Rocks Reservoir, 278 acres; Torrington tract, 120 acres; Natrona County School District site, 40 acres; Esterbrook townsite, 15.29 acres; and the Converse County Park, 660 acres. These lands have been so identified because of their location within high use recreation areas or near to communities.

About 470 acres, including 200 acres within Casper's projected growth boundary and 275 acres near the Gray Rocks Reservoir, have been identified for disposal under the R&PP Act, but if no R&PP lease or disposal is made by 1987, these lands will be disposed of first by exchange if possible, or by public sale.

Other public lands in the resource area can be considered case by case when a definite need for the land is identified, the requirements of the R&PP Act can be met, and the proposal is in conformance with this and other local land use plans.

Sanitary landfilling is the most common method of solid waste disposal in the PRRA. Public lands are frequently leased for landfills under the R&PP Act. The following areas have been identified as problem areas, and future potential landfill sites may be considered: Arminto, Hiland, and Waltman; Badwater; Raderville; Powder River; Medicine Bow Highway (U.S. 487); Hartville-Sunrise; and Chugwater Creek. In these areas, either there is a problem such as indiscriminate or trespass dumping or the existing waste disposal facility is inadequate.

TABLE 2
RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ALLOTMENT RANKING

Number on Map ^a	Operator Name	Operator Number	Allotment		Benefit/Cost Ratio ^c	Project Development			Miles of Fence
			Rank by Priority Group ^b	Rank by Priority Group ^b		Acres of Brush Control	Number of Reser- voirs	Number of Wells	
1	Aetna <i>Buffalo Cr. Ranch</i>	6280	1	1	1.89	200	1		1.00
2	Bates Creek	6031	2	2	1.18	750			1.00
3	Bentley	6033	2	2	0.29		3		4.00
4	Bonar	6047	4	4	1.79			1	
5	Brittain	6057	2	2	0.43	75	2		1.25
6	Burke Sheep	6066	4	4	0.75	100			2.50
7	Carlson, A.L.	6094	1	1	0.40	200	5		6.00
8	Cheney	6100	2	2	0.40	160	2	1	2.00
9	Clear Creek	6107	2	2	0.66	1,000	10	10	2.50
10	Cloud Creek	6111	2	2	0.72				5.50
11	Coffman	6115	1	1	0.83	100	20	5	18.00
12	Cummings	6423	1	1	0.98	600	2		0.50
13	Deer Creek	6071	2	2	0.63	360	2		1.00
14	Elkhorn	6179	1	1	0.78	600	15	6	5.00
15	Garrett	6213	1	1	0.47	200	5	1	4.50
16	Howard	6184	3	3	0.56	1,100	8	2	3.50
17	Irvine Brothers	6300	2	2	0.88	800	13	4	
18	Irvine Ranches	6302	3	3	1.05	1,000	10		
19	Marton	6308	2	2	0.51	1,500	6	3	4.75
20	McCuire, F.	6394	4	4	0.74	600		1	

RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ALLOTMENT RANKING
(continued)

Num- ber on Map ^a	Operator Name	Oper- ator Number	Allotment Rank by Priority Group ^b	Benefit/Cost Ratio ^c	Acreage of Brush Control	Project Development			
						Number of Reser- voirs	Number of Wells	Number of Springs	Miles of Fence
21	Miles	6413	3	No projects identified					
22	Burns	6416	3	0.56	730	3		4	0.25
23	Mills	6422	1	1.13	400	1		1	6.75
24	Rattlesnake	6015	2	1.22	780	4	3	2	3.00
25	Rimrock	6535	1	0.90	400				2.00
26	Robinet, V.	6539	4	0.35		1	3		
27	Schmitt	6556	3	1.47				1	
28	Shamrock	6563	4	0.57	400				
29	Shepperson, K.	6465	3	0.53			2		1.50
30	Squaw Mountain	6270	3	0.97			2		4.00
31	Steinle	6602	1	0.31			1	2	
32	Stevenson and sons	6011	1	1.67	650		4		
33	Strohecker	6609	3	0.62	870	2	1	1	1.00
34	Sullivan	6612	2	0.90	400	1			3.00
35	Teapot	6622	4	1.18	1,000				1.00
36	Willow Creek	6674	1	2.02	200		3		
37	Wollen	6311	4	2.05	300				
38	Allemand, R.	6002	5	2.26			2		
39	Antelope Springs	6010	5	3.06	800				4.25
40	Body, A.	6040	5	1.66	60				0.50
41	Body, R.	6042	5	3.23					
50	Collins, J.	6081	5	2.31		1		1	
53	Fenton	6190	5	0.90	800			pipeline	
55	Gowin	6219	5	0.52	300		1		

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RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND ALLOTMENT RANKING
(continued)

Num- ber on Map ^a	Operator Name	Oper- ator Number	Allotment Rank by Priority Group ^b	Benefit/Cost Ratio ^c	Project Development			
					Acreage of Brush Control	Number of Reser- voirs	Number of Wells	Miles of Fence
60	Henry	6269	5	0.84	1,000	1		2.75
61	Holman	6274	5	1.69				0.50
62	Hornbuckle	6018	5	1.41	800	1		
68	M&D	6402	5	0.75		6		
77	Pine Mountain	6493	5	1.02		2		
82	Scott, Dr.		5	2.13		1	1	
84	Shepperson Ranch		5	0.25	600	2		1.50
86	Smith Sheep		5	2.92	120		1	

NOTE: Numbers 21, 41 through 49, 51, 52, 54, 56 through 59, 63 through 67, 69 through 76, 78 through 81, 83, and 85 are not shown because no projects are planned for these allotments.

- a. Map refers to map 9, Volume 2, draft RMP/EIS.
- b. Allotment ranking was based on allotment category, critical resource values, use conflicts, public controversy, benefit/cost analysis, and other intangible benefits.
- c. The benefit/cost analysis was the most conservative possible. We considered livestock benefits only, so that we could obtain as pure a comparison as possible between allotments. We view as very subjective and hard to establish the process of determining benefits to other resources such as wildlife, watershed, recreation, and ranch management and operations. Therefore, such data are not of much value, particularly when compared with data from other area offices within the state. We have considered these other activities in our allotment ranking even though they are not reflected in the benefit/cost ratios. All allotments having a ratio of less than 1,000 will be reevaluated during the project planning stage of development.

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TABLE 3
RANGE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS IN THE PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA

Num- ber on Map	Operator		Allotment		Use Supervision High-Moderate-Low	Actual Use (Rancher)	Trend Transects	Range Site Mapping	Wildlife or Watershed Studies
	Name	Number	Name	Number					
1	Aetna Insurance Company	6280	Buffalo Creek	1	H	X	X	X	
2	Bates Creek Cattle Company ^a	6031	Two Bar	2	L	X			
3	Bentley	6033	Bates Creek	3	H	X	X		
4	Bonar	6047	Posvar	4	H	X	X		X
5	Britain	6057	Bonar	5	L	X			
			S. Cave Gulch	6	H	X			
			Powder River Draw	7	H	X			
			Sand Draw	7	M	X			
			Waltman	8	M	X			
6	Burke Sheep Com- pany	6066	Burke	9	M	X			
			Cheever Flat	10	L	X			
			Merino A.T. ^b	1001	H	X			
			Bucknum A.T.	1002	H	X			
			Hemingway	11	M	X			
7	Carlson, A.L.	6094	Hiland	12	H	X			
			Railroad	13	H	X			
			Camel's Hump	14	H	X			
			Ellis Mountain	15	H	X			
			Cheney	16	M	X			
8	Chcney Livestock	6100	Muddy Mountain	17	M	X			
9	Clear Creek Cattle Company	6107	Clear Creek	18	M	X	X		
			Kantrell-Todd	19	L	X			
			Matador	20	M	X			
10	Cloud Creek Sheep Company	6111	Cloud Creek	21	H	X			
			Fifty-mile Flat A.T.	22	H	X			
			Pine Creek	23	M	X			
			Fifty-mile Flat	1003	H	X			
11	Coffman Ranch Company	6115	Coffman	24	H	X			
			Spring Creek	25	H	X			
			Powder River	26	H	X			
			Beck Place	27	H	X			
12	Cummings	6423	Cummings	28	H	X			
13	Deer Creek Ranch	6071	Keg Spring Draw	29	H	X			
			South Hiland	30	H	X			
14	Elkhorn Land & Livestock	6179	Elkhorn	31	H	X			
15	Garrett Ranch	6213	Garrett	32	H	X	X		X
16	Howard Farms	6184	Baskett	33	H	X			
			Ellis Trust	34	H	X			
			Eagle Creek	35	H	X			
			Brian	36	M	X			
17	Irvine Brothers	6300	Irvine Brothers	37	H	X			
			Cottonwood A.T.	1004	H	X			
			Lester Trail A.T.	1005	H	X			
			East Trail A.T.	1006	H	X			
			West Trail A.T.	1007	H	X			

RANGE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Num- ber on Map	Operator		Allotment		Supervision High-Moderate-Low	Actual Use (Rancher)	Trend Transects	Range Site Mapping	Wildlife or Watershed Studies
	Name	Number	Name	Number					
18	Irvine Ranches	6302	Davis Begley	38 39	H H	X X			
19	Marton Brothers	6308	Marton	40	H	X	X		
20	McGuire, Fred	6394	Cooney Hills	41	M	X			X
21	Miles Land & Livestock	6413	Ice Cave Mountain	42	M	X			
22	Burns Land & Cattle	6416	Alcova	43	H	X			X
23	Mills Livestock	6422	Ervey Basin	44	H	X			
24	Rattlesnake Gra- zing	6015	Poison Spider	45	L	X			
25	Rimrock Live- stock	6535	Bessemer Mountain	46	H	X			
26	Robinett, V.	6539	Lone Tree	47	H	X			
27	Schmitt	6556	Spruce Creek	48	L	X			
28	Shamrock	6563	Emigrant Gap A.T.	1501	H	X	X		
29	Shepperson, K.R.	6465	Rattlesnake	49	H	X			
30	Squaw Mountain	6270	Emigrant Gap	50	L	X			
31	Steinle	6602	Deer Creek	51	H	X			
32	Stevenson & Sons	6011	Stone Ranch	52	H	X			
33	Stroecker	6609	Potter	53	H	X			
34	Sullivan	6612	Little Red Creek	54	H	X	X		X
35	Teapot Ranch Company	6622	Cloud Creek	55	H	X			
36	Willow Creek Company	6674	Castle Creek	56	H	X			
37	Wollen	6311	3T	57	H	X			
38	Allemand, R.	6002	Mountain West	58	M	X			
39	Antelope Springs	6010	Mountain East	59	M	X			
40	Body, A.	6040	South Castle Creek	60	M	X			
41	Body, R.	6042	Squaw Mountain	61	M	X			
42	Braunschweig	6051	Steinle	62	H	X	X		
			Pathfinder	63	H	X			
			Coyote Creek	64	H	X			
			Stroecker	65	H	X			
			Sullivan	66	H	X			
			Red Fork	67	M	X			
			West Trail A.T.	1007	H	X			
			Teapot	68	M	X			
			Willow Creek	69	H	X	X		X
			Wollen	70	H	X			
			Allemand	71	M	X			
			Antelope Springs	72	M	X			
			Lone Bear	73	M	X			
			Elk Creek	74	M	X			
			Texas Creek	75	H	X			
			Body	76	H	X			
			Braunschweig	77	L	X			

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RANGE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Num- ber on Map	Operator		Allotment		Use Supervision High-Moderate-Low	Actual Use (Rancher)	Trend Transects	Range Site Mapping	Wildlife or Watershed Studies
	Name	Number	Name	Number					
43	Bremer	6713	North Platte	78	M	X			
44	Brewer	6053	Brewer	79	M	X			
			Goldeneye	80	H	X			
			Tie Bridge Gulch	81	M	X			
45	Brooks, B.B.	6058	Ormsby	82	L	X			
			Smith Creek	83	L	X			
46	Carlson Ranch	6135	Pine Creek	84	L	X			
	Company		Waltman	8	L	X			
47	Clemons	6152	Clemons	85	M	X			
48	Coates	6112	Coates	86	M	X			
49	Cole Creek Sheep	6122	Cole Creek	87	M	X			
50	Collins, J.	6081	Granite Ridge	88	M	X			
51	Dodds	6166	Dodds	89	L	X			
52	Ellis Sheep	6185	Big	90	M	X			
	Company		Cleghorn	91	N	X			
			Foster Draw	92	M	X			
			Middle Fork	93	M	X			
			Donlin	94	M	X			
			Bucknum A.T.	1002	H	X			
53	Fenton	6190	Fenton	95	M	X			
			Waltman	8	L	X			
54	Forgey	6198	Forgey	96	L	X			
55	Gowin	6219	Paul Place	97	M	X			
			North Casper Creek	98	M	X			
			Buchanan	99	L	X			
			Merino A.T.	1001	H	X			
56	Harlan, C.	6691	Cloud Creek	100	N	X			
			Powder River	101	M	X			
			Harlan	102	M	X			
			Trail	103	M	X			
57	Harlan, R.	6633	Broken Horn	104	M	X			
58	Harvey, J.	6260	Spring Canyon	105	L	X			
59	Haygood & Martin	6263	Corral Creek	106	M	X			
			Haughton	107	L	X			
60	Henry	6269	Henry	108	L	X			
			North Fork	109	M	X			
61	Holman	6274	Holman	110	H	X			
			Alkali	111	H	X			
			First Water	112	H	X			
62	Hornbuckle	6018	Hornbuckle	113	L	X			
			55 Ranch	114	L	X			
			North Fork	109	M	X			
63	Irvine, Van	6306	Antelope Hills	115	M	X			

RANGE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Num- ber on Map	Operator		Allotment		Use		Actual Use (Rancher)	Trend Transects	Range Site Mapping	Wildlife or Watershed Studies
	Name	Number	Name	Number	High-Moderate-Low					
64	Jarrard	6314	Lone Tree Gulch	116	M	X				
			Flying Diamond	117	M	X				
			Jarrard	118	H	X				
65	Johnson, Bill	6315	Smokey Gap A.T.	1008	H	X				
			Togy Mound	119	L	X				
66	Johnson, Jack	6317	Table Mountain 1	120	H	X	X			X
67	Lorenz	6736	Table Mountain 2	121	H	X				
68	M & D	6402	M & D	123	M	X	X			X
69	Manning	6521	Manning	124	M	X				
70	Marshall	6380	Ward Place	125	M	X				
71	McGuire, B., Sr.	6032	Lower Muleshoe	126	H	X	X			
			Upper Muleshoe	127	M	X				
			Slate Creek	128	M	X				
72	Burns Land & Cattle	6000	Garfield Peak	129	H	X				
73	Miller, D.	6415	Miller	130	M	X				
74	Milne, J.	6425	Sheep Creek	131	M	X				
75	Milne, G.	6427	Wallace Creek	132	M	X				
76	Moore, Iye	6442	Clarkson Hill	133	M	X				
77	Pine Mountain Ranch	6493	Pine Mountain	134	M	X				
78	Robinet, Guy	6026	Barker	135	M	X				
79	Salt Creek Ranch	6552	Cottonwood Creek	136	H	X				
			Bothwell Creek	137	H	X				
80	Sanford	6666	Salt Creek	138	H	X				
81	Schnoor	6558	TTT-Scott's Place	139	H	X				
82	Scott	6560	Schnoor	140	H	X				
			Bessemer Bend	141	L	X				
83	Sedman ^a	6704	Jackson Canyon	142	M	X				
84	Shepperson Ranch	6570	Table Mountain 3	143	H	X				
85	Skyline Ranches	6075	Castle Creek	144	H	X				
			Diamond Ring	145	H	X				
			Midwest	146	H	X				
86	Smith Sheep Company	6586	Smith	147	M	X				
87	Spratt & Sons	6739	Okie Trail	148	M	X				
88	Staple 3 Sheep Company	6597	Staple Three	149	M	X				
89	Thirty-one Bar	6062	Thirty-one Bar	150	M	X				
90	Valentine & Sons	6638	Valentine	151	M	X				
			Big Muddy	152	L	X				

RPS

RANGE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS (continued)

Num- ber on Map	Operator		Allotment		Use		Actual Use (Rancher)	Trend Transects	Range Site Mapping	Wildlife or Watershed Studies
	Name	Number	Name	Number	High-Moderate-Low					
91	V.I. Sheep Company	6642	Edgerton Smokey Gap Dead Horse Eagle Creek Barnum Road	153 154 155 156 157	H H H M M		X X X X X			
92	Weidt	6353	Weidt	159	M		X			
93	Zavorka	6685	Bump-Sullivan	160	H		X			
94	Seven I Live-- stock Company	6562	Seven L	161	M		X			

a. An AMP is already in existence for this allotment.

b. "A. T." indicates "after trail"; that is, grazing is permitted in the area of a stock driveway at other times than during trailing.

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Exchanges

Exchanges are used to acquire nonfederal lands to enhance BLM management opportunities. The BLM would like to acquire land through exchange in the following selected areas: Muddy Mountain, the North Platte River, Table Mountain, Red Wall, South Big Horns, Rattlesnake Range, Ryan Hill (Oregon Trail), Alkali Slough (Oregon Trail). These areas are considered to have high recreation use or good potential for recreation development, or they contain important wildlife, cultural, scenic, natural, open space, or other resource values.

Public land tracts that are not critical to current management objectives will be disposed of to acquire land in these areas as exchange opportunities arise. Some lands have been identified for disposal to acquire specific private land tracts. The legal descriptions of specific exchanges are on file in the PRRA office in Casper.

Exchanges may be used to resolve some split estate problems. This would be consistent with the policy of the Director of the BLM on mineral exchanges, as defined in BLM Instruction Memorandum WO 84-81. A case-by-case analysis is essential in mineral exchanges; however, the following options are available:

Private surface could be acquired on one parcel and federal surface conveyed on another. This would eliminate a split estate situation on the one parcel, but create a split estate elsewhere. Only in special circumstances would this be beneficial to the public.

Private surface could be acquired on one parcel and federal surface and minerals conveyed on another. This would eliminate the split estate situation, but might result in value disparities.

Private minerals also can be exchanged for federal minerals, or federal minerals in one area can be exchanged for federal minerals in another, or federal mineral lease rights in one area can be exchanged for lease rights in another area (as when lease rights to minerals beneath alluvial valley floors are exchanged).

Disposal by Other Means

About 102,700 acres are tentatively identified for disposal. This includes land that could be available for exchange, or for sale if the sale would be in the public interest. Disposal action can be initiated without amending the RMP.

Where disposal is clearly in the public interest and there is no reasonable possibility of disposal by R&PP or exchange, isolated parcels in RMUs 1 through 13 that have been identified for disposal can be considered for sale upon public request.

Disposal for Purposes of Agricultural Development

Lease or disposal of public land will be permitted in the PRRA for agricultural purposes if the lands are suitable for agricultural development. Lands in the Buffalo Creek area would be available, but only by lease. BLM-administered surface adjacent to big game winter ranges will not be used for agricultural purposes.

***L2: Withdrawals**

Protective withdrawals will be established in four areas. The objective of such withdrawals is to protect and preserve important resource values. Some limitations apply, such as completing intensive mineral investigations. The areas where withdrawals will be recommended are Pterodactyl Track, Muddy Mountain EEA, Jackson Canyon, and Table Mountain. About 7,200 acres in these four areas will be recommended for withdrawal. The Platte River protective withdrawal, which contains about 3,300 acres, will be continued. The Fremont Canyon classification and multiple use (C&MU) classification (1,300 acres) will be terminated.

L3: Corridors

The Oregon Trail corridor and four existing corridors will be designated in accordance with 43 CFR 2806. Except for the new Oregon Trail location, each designation will include the same types of facilities that are present within the corridor.

The corridors are as follows:

Oregon Trail Road. This corridor consists of three segments. Segment A is approximately 1 mile north of the Oregon Trail Road between the west boundary of the resource area and Oil Mountain. This segment will be used by all types and sizes of facilities. To the extent possible, the southern ½ mile of the corridor width will be used for power lines and overhead facilities and the northern ½ mile will be used for pipelines and other buried facilities. Segment B extends between Oil Mountain and Casper, generally parallel to the Oregon Trail and over Emigrant Ridge. All sizes of overhead facilities will be considered in this segment. Segment C branches from

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the Oil Mountain area, around the north edge of Oil Mountain, then along Poison Spider Road into Casper. This segment will be used for all types and sizes of rights-of-way, but primarily for buried facilities.

Poison Spider Road. This corridor will be $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on each side of the road.

U.S. Highway 20-26. This corridor will be 3 miles wide, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on each side of the highway.

Wyoming Highway 259/U.S. 87. This corridor will be 2 miles wide between Casper and Ormsby Road, 5 miles wide between Ormsby Road and Midwest, and 1 mile wide between Midwest and the northern boundaries of the resource area.

Wyoming Highway 387. This corridor will be 2 miles wide, 1 mile on each side of the highway.

Future corridor adjustments and new corridor designations will be made only when facility placement within an existing designated corridor is incompatible, unfeasible, or impractical and when the environmental consequences can be adequately mitigated. Problems of technical compatibility between facilities and spacing of facilities in corridors will be solved case by case.

Restrictions on placement of rights-of-way will be as follows:

Rights-of-way on Pine Ridge will be prohibited.

Placement of rights-of-way will be restricted on Highway 220 from Bessemer Mountain to Alcova; the newly constructed segments of I-25 in Townships 37, 38, 39, and 40 North, Ranges 79 and 80 West; Rattlesnake Range; Red Wall; Muddy Mountain elk winter range; within 1 mile of the North Platte River; Jackson Canyon ACEC, and Squaw Mountain.

Rights-of-way in the Red Wall and South Big Horns areas will be prohibited in the area north and west of the Badwater, Lost Cabin, and Buffalo Creek roads, and the Red Wall.

Most of the South Big Horns area is leased for oil and gas, and drilling could occur in the future. If production is achieved, rights-of-way will be allowed only in accordance with an approved oil field development plan. Rights-of-way needed to transport products out of the area will parallel county roads except for the Big Horn Mountains Road, Okie Trail, and Buffalo Creek county roads.

L4: Access

We will pursue acquisition of 17 easements or cooperative agreements for access over about 38 miles of private lands, as listed below:

Corral Creek, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, T31N, R79W, Sec. 9, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 14, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 16, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$; Sec. 23, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Bates Creek Reservoir, 3 miles, T29N, R78W, Sec. 7, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 8, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 16, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$; Sec. 17, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; T29N, R79W, Sec. 12, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 13, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Kerfoot Creek (foot access only), $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, T29N, R79W, Sec. 2, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; T30N, R79W, Sec. 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 35, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Alkali Trail, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, T39N, R84W, Sec. 23, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; T38N, R85W, Sec. 16, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Horse Ranch, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, T37N, R80W, Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 16, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; T37N, R81W, Sec. 16, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; T38N, R79W, Sec. 27, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 33, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 34, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Hitt, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, T37N, R82W, Sec. 2, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; T38N, R82W, Sec. 10, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 15, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 16, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 20, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 29, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; T37N, R83W, Sec. 5, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 8, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 17, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$; Sec. 20, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Big Sulphur, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, T39N, R82W, Sec. 30, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; T38N, R83W, Sec. 3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 4, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 5, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; T39N, R83W, Sec. 25, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 36, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; T39N, R84W, Sec. 1, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 2, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 12, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Canyon Creek, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, T33N, R88W, Sec. 19, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; T33N, R89W, Sec. 26, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 36, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$.

North Platte River, Parcel No. 1, 2 miles, T34N, R76W, Sec. 31, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 32, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$; Sec. 33, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

North Platte River, Parcel No. 2, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, T34N, R74W, Sec. 33, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 34, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$.

North Platte River, Parcel No. 3, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, T33N, R74W, Sec. 3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

North Platte River, Parcel No. 4, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, T31N, R71W, Sec. 3, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$; Sec. 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 9, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; T32N, R71W, Sec. 34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

North Platte River, Parcel No. 5, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, T31N, R70W, Sec. 18, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 19, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; T31N, R71W, Sec. 23, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 24, N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

North Platte River, Parcel No. 6, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, T30N, R68W, Sec. 7, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (Parcel No. 7 already has access).

North Platte River, Parcel No. 8, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, T26N, R65W, Sec. 10, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 11, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 14, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$.

North Platte River, Parcel No. 9, 2 miles, T26N, R64W, Sec. 7, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 17, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 18, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 20, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

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Upper Laramie River, 1 ¼ miles, T23N, R70W, Sec. 3, S½S½; Sec. 4, S½SE¼; Sec. 10, NE¼NE¼ (Parcel No. 10 already has access).

Specific locations may be changed to accommodate variations in negotiations or construction problems.

Recreation Management

*R1: Recreation Area Management Plans

We will continue to implement completed recreation area management plans (RAMPs) according to the management objectives and decisions defined for the following areas.

**Muddy Mountain*

The Muddy Mountain activity plan, which was completed in 1977, provides planning decisions for preserving the natural character and wildlife habitat of 12,000 acres of BLM land in areas identified as the Muddy Mountain EEA, North Rim, Corral Creek Canyon, West Rim, Baldy Knob, and the East End. The plan sets forth actions necessary to manage public use so that resource damage and conflicts are minimized. Uses included are recreation, public access, visitor control and environmental protection, information, interpretation, special recreation use permits, wildlife, timber, range, minerals, lands, and fire management. The EEA area will be recommended for withdrawal from the operation of the 1872 mining law.

**Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area*

The Goldeneye plan provides for the cooperative management of 733 acres of BLM land, 280 acres of state land, and 140 acres of private land, or a total area of 1,153 acres. Included in the total acreage is a 488-acre reservoir. The management program sets forth actions for recreation (hunting, fishing, picnicking), wildlife (trout fishery, bird habitat), livestock grazing, mineral activities, and lands actions. The plan permits no surface development within the boundary of the recreation area unless the development would facilitate recreational use or enhance wildlife habitat.

Middle Fork Management Area

The Middle Fork Management area lies in Natrona County (21,600 acres) and Johnson

County (57,560 acres). The portion in Johnson County is in the BLM's Buffalo Resource Area. A recreation plan has been implemented in the Johnson County portion of the area. The PRRA will cooperate with the Buffalo Resource Area in managing the Natrona County portion of the Middle Fork Management Area. The plan provides for a high quality multiple activity recreation area for public enjoyment while protecting high value resources, ensuring permanent access, and maintaining other compatible resource uses. Emphasis in the PRRA-Buffalo cooperative management of the Natrona County portion will be on protection of wildlife habitat, access, and protection of cultural resources.

North Platte River

The North Platte River RAMP will provide for the management of 200 acres (nine parcels) of public land contiguous to the river between Alcova and Casper and ten riverfront parcels of public surface between Casper and the Wyoming-Nebraska state line. Camping, fishing, boating, hunting, and limited ORV use will be included.

Field inventories will be conducted to monitor use by visitors and resource degradation. Boundary signs will be placed on public land, and hazards on the river will be identified. Before signs are placed on private surface, written agreements with landowners will be obtained.

To facilitate the management of the 200 acres included in the plan, surface development other than recreation facilities will not be allowed on the land listed below, some of which is adjacent to the area to be actively managed. The tracts will be protected from disposal.

Site F1: T34N, R76W, Sec. 31, SW¼; site F2: T34N, R76W, Sec. 34, SE¼SE¼; site F3: T33N, R74W, Sec. 2, SW¼SW¼; site F4: T31N, R71W, Sec. 5, NE¼SE¼; and site F5, T31N, R71W, Sec. 23, NE¼NW¼.

Easements or land exchanges will be obtained to provide access after the RAMP is completed.

The BLM will try to arrange cooperative agreements with Converse County and the Wyoming Highway Department so that parking facilities and boat launching and landing sites can be provided on bridge rights-of-way held by the county and the state.

Facilities will be developed on the Muddy Mountain and Goldeneye recreation areas as shown in items 1 and 2 in table 4. Facility development in areas 3 through 8 will be limited to support facilities necessary for the health and safety of people using the recreation sites. Monitoring and use supervision will be provided at all sites.

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TABLE 4
EXISTING AND PROPOSED FACILITIES FOR RECREATION SITES
IN THE PLATTE RIVER RESOURCE AREA

Name	Existing Facilities	Proposed Improvements
1. Muddy Mountain Recreation Area - Natrona County	2 designated campgrounds 2 nature trails 1 interpretation ramada 2 water wells 2 vault latrines Access road Picnic tables	Dry use area Picnic tables Group camping area Vault latrines Snowmobile/cross-county ski trails
2. Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area - Natrona County	Access road Parking area Vault latrine Boat ramp	Designated camping area Picnic ramada Picnic tables Shade trees
3. Trapper's Route Canoe Trail - Natrona County	1 vault latrine Trash cans Access roads Launching/landing areas Signs	Picnic tables Designated parking and camping areas Designated off-road vehicle access Trash cans Vault latrine Improved access Information signs Launching/landing areas
4. Oregon/Mormon Trail - Natrona, Converse, Platte, and Goshen counties	None, except for Bessemer Bend #5	Interpretation sites
5. Bessemer Bend Historic Site - Natrona County	Access road Parking area Historic interpretive ramada Vault latrine Trash cans	Picnic ramada Picnic tables Landing/launching area River access (vehicle) Shade trees
6. Camel Hump Campground - Natrona County	None	Vault latrine Designated parking and camping areas Picnic tables Signs
7. Grave Springs Campground - Natrona County	1 outhouse Trash cans Picnic tables	Vault latrine Picnic tables Designated parking and camping areas Signs
8. Buffalo Creek Campground - Natrona County	1 outhouse Trash cans	Vault latrine Picnic tables Designated parking and camping areas Improved fishing access Signs

R2: Off-Road Vehicles

Off-road vehicle (ORV) designations for the Platte River Resource Area are listed in table 5.

*R3: Environmental Education Areas

Continued use for educational purposes will be permitted on the following tracts: T. 33 N., R. 80 W., Section 15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; and T. 34 N., R. 78 W., Section 25, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$. These tracts are available for R&PP use, and all but the tract in Section 25 may be considered for disposal after 1987.

*R4: Visual Resource Management

The BLM's visual resource management (VRM) system will be applied in the PRRA where required to mitigate impacts from surface development.

Soil, Water, and Air

SWA1: Watershed Plans

The BLM will implement the Bates Holes watershed plan for southwestern Natrona County to identify sources of heavy sediment loads in the

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TABLE 5
ACRES FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE
IN DESIGNATED CLASSES

	Acres	Total Acres
I. Open for unlimited ORV use Poison Spider bentonite pit	200	200
II. Closed to all ORV use		2,615
Shady Mountain Environmental Education Area	636	
Trail sites along the Oregon Trail Road	955	
Trail sites along the Bozeman Trail	1,030	
III. Open limited to ORV use as indicated:		
III A. ORVs must stay on designated roads and vehicle routes		64,838
Shady Mountain Recreation Area	11,370	
Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area	733	
Sand Dunes northeast of Casper	13,560	
Jackson Canyon	3,890	
North Platte River from Casper to Alcova	2,990	
Red Wall	32,295	
III B. ORVs must stay on existing roads and vehicle routes on public lands not listed in III A; however, temporary ORV use is allowed for performance of necessary tasks		1,331,676
Total acres		1,399,459

North Platte River. To date, Bolton Creek, Ledge Creek, Bear Creek, Washout Creek, Stinking Creek, and Big Red Creek have been identified as drainages of concern. We will determine the cause of the erosion (geologic or accelerated) and try to reduce or eliminate accelerated erosion. Any attempts to reduce heavy sediment loads will be based on cost-benefit analysis.

Short-term, intermediate, and long-term stream monitoring surveys (Level II) will be continued on the Stinking Creek, Elk Creek, Red Creek, Bear Creek, and Bolton Creek streams and drainages.

The following listed sensitive drainages will be evaluated to determine the need for intensive management. The list reflects the order of priority. Intensive management may include such options as a watershed plan, implementing various protective measures, and placement of various structures as may be necessary.

Bates Creek
Washout Creek*
Ledge Creek*
Bear Creek*
Bolton Creek*
Stinking Creek*
Cloud Creek
Salt Creek**
Anderson Draw
Cave Gulch
Okie Draw
Teapot Creek**
Castle Creek
Red Creek*
Little Red Creek*
Indian Creek
Headwaters of Wallace Creek

Buffalo Creek
Aspirin Creek
Alkali Creek
Corral Creek
Badwater Creek

Drainages followed by an asterisk will be included in the Bates Hole Watershed Plan; drainages followed by two asterisks will be included in the Salt Creek Drainage ACEC Management Plan.

A short-term surface water inventory and the long-term stream monitoring portions of the Level II survey will be continued throughout the resource area as defined below until a statistically reliable base of information is available.

Intermediate stream monitoring (short-term surface water inventory portion of the Level II survey) will be carried out as listed in table 6.

Long-term stream monitoring stations (long-term stream monitoring portion of the Level II survey) will be established in cooperation with the Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior. The streams to be monitored are listed in priority order in table 6.

TABLE 6
BLM SURFACE WATER MONITORING SITES

Name of Site	Legal Description
INTERMEDIATE MONITORING	
Stone Creek	T40N, R89W, Sec. 31, SW1/4NW1/4
Alkali Creek	T47N, R89W, Sec. 5, NE1/4NW1/4
Badwater Creek	T39N, R88W, Sec. 22, NE1/4NE1/4
Badwater Creek	T39N, R88W, Sec. 29, SE1/4NW1/4
Red Creek	T38N, R87W, Sec. 19, SE1/4SW1/4
Dry Fork Badwater Creek	T39N, R88W, Sec. 33, NW1/4NE1/4
Aspirin Draw	T35N, R86W, Sec. 9, NW1/4NW1/4
Wallace Creek	T34N, R86W, Sec. 6, SE1/4NE1/4
South Fork Powder River	T35N, R85W, Sec. 4, NE1/4SW1/4
Horse Creek	T30N, R85W, Sec. 1, NW1/4NE1/4
Cottonwood Creek	T38N, R84W, Sec. 34, SW1/4SE1/4
Okie Draw	T37N, R84W, Sec. 8, SE1/4SW1/4
Cave Gulch	T37N, R84W, Sec. 29, SE1/4SW1/4
Alkali Creek	T39W, R83W, Sec. 4, NE1/4SW1/4
Indian Creek	T38N, R83W, Sec. 34, NE1/4NW1/4
Anderson Draw	T38N, R83W, Sec. 34, SE1/4NW1/4
Cloud Creek	T39N, R82W, Sec. 23, NW1/4NW1/4
Bolton Creek	T31N, R81W, Sec. 75, NE1/4NE1/4
Bear Creek	T30N, R81W, Sec. 25, NW1/4SE1/4
Washout Creek	T30N, R82W, Sec. 1, SE1/4SW1/4
Ledge Creek	T30N, R82W, Sec. 15, NE1/4NW1/4
Little Red Creek	T31N, R80W, Sec. 9, NE1/4NW1/4
Big Red Creek	T31N, R80W, Sec. 16, SW1/4SE1/4
Corral Creek	T31N, R80W, Sec. 22, NW1/4SW1/4
Stinking Creek	T28N, R80W, Sec. 15, NE1/4NW1/4
Stinking Creek	T29N, R80W, Sec. 6, NW1/4SE1/4
Stinking Creek	T31N, R81W, Sec. 14, NW1/4SW1/4
Bates Creek	T30N, R79W, Sec. 29, NW1/4SE1/4

Planning Decisions

BLM SURFACE WATER MONITORING SITES
(continued)

Name of Site	Legal Description
Bates Creek	T31N, R80W, Sec. 30, SW1/4SW1/4
Bates Creek	T31N, R81W, Sec. 11, NW1/4SE1/4
Elk Creek	T29N, R80W, Sec. 6, SW1/4SE1/4
Salt Creek	T40N, R79W, Sec. 24, SW1/4NE1/4
Salt Creek	T39N, R78W, Sec. 16, SW1/4SE1/4
Castle Creek	T39N, R79W, Sec. 14, SE1/4NW1/4
Meadow Creek	T42N, R78W, Sec. 19, SE1/4NW1/4
LONG-TERM MONITORING	
<u>Priority 1</u>	
North Platte River near Goose Egg	T32N, R81W, Sec. 22, SW1/4SW1/4
Powder River near Sussex	T43N, R79W, Sec. 13, SE1/4SW1/4
South Fork of Powder River near Kaycee	T43N, R81W, Sec. 13, NW1/4SW1/4
Salt Creek near Sussex	T42N, R79W, Sec. 8, NE1/4SE1/4
Stinking Creek near the Body Ranch	T29N, R80W, Sec. 18, NE1/4NE1/4
<u>Priority 2</u>	
Stinking Creek	T31N, R80W, Sec. 29, NE1/4SW1/4
Lawn Creek	T29N, R80W, Sec. 7, SE1/4SW1/4
Upper Bates Creek	T31N, R80W, Sec. 20, NW1/4NE1/4
Corral Creek	T31N, R80W, Sec. 17, SW1/4SE1/4
<u>Priority 3</u>	
Castle Creek	T39N, R79W, Sec. 15, SW1/4NE1/4
Upper Salt Creek	T38N, R77W, Sec. 6, SW1/4SW1/4
Dry Fork of Badwater Creek	T39N, R88W, Sec. 33, NW1/4NE1/4
Badwater Creek	T39N, R89W, Sec. 15, NE1/4SE1/4
<u>Priority 4</u>	
Indian Creek	T38N, R83W, Sec. 23, NW1/4NE1/4
Cloud Creek	T39N, R82W, Sec. 13, NE1/4SE1/4
Alkali Creek	T37N, R89W, Sec. 5, NW1/4NE1/4

*SWA2: Surface Water Protection

For the protection of surface water, surface development will be prohibited in the following areas: within ¼ mile of the North Platte River; within 500 feet of live streams, lakes, reservoirs, and canals and associated riparian habitat; and within 500 feet of water wells, springs, or artesian and flowing wells. These restrictions, including the restriction on intermittent and ephemeral streams described below, may be waived in writing by the district manager if potential impacts can be acceptably mitigated. The ¼-mile limitation is not to be waived on the Trappers Route tracts.

Surface development proposals that involve intermittent and ephemeral streams (as identified on USGS 7 ½ minute topographic maps) will be evaluated, and site-specific mitigation will be applied as necessary, or the development will be moved a sufficient distance to ensure natural drainage integrity. This restriction applies to intermittent streams and well-defined ephemeral

streams where watershed conditions indicate that the potential exists for the stream to carry sufficient quantities of water to result in damage to surface facilities or to dike channels.

This decision will be applied case by case. It will not apply to every topographic depression or every drainage that might conceivably carry runoff at some time; rather, it applies to drainages that have the potential to affect live streams.

*SWA3: Soil Protection

Surface development is not permitted from December 30 to June 1 in the South Fork Powder River drainage, Coal Mountain-Twin Buttes area, Pine Mountain, Rattlesnake Range, Holiday Draw, Badwater-Deadman Butte area, Pine Ridge, and Bear Peak.

Surface development is not permitted from November 30 to June 1 on Muddy Mountain and the front range of the Laramie Mountains or from October 1 or first lasting snow to June 1 in South Big Horn Mountains.

Seasonal limitations do not apply to maintenance of existing facilities, and they may be waived in writing by the district manager.

*SWA4: Slope Restrictions

No occupancy or other surface disturbance is allowed on slopes of more than 25% without written permission from the district manager. When development is proposed on slopes of more than 25%, engineered drawings for construction, drainage design, and final contours proposed after rehabilitation will be required. No occupancy will be allowed on slopes over 25% in the South Big Horns (RMU-1).

*SWA5: Cedar Ridge

Because of fragile watershed conditions, no surface development is allowed on Cedar Ridge without the written permission of the district manager.

SWA6: Fragile Areas

The following fragile areas will be evaluated to determine the need for special management. Special management could include development of a management plan, establishing appropriate protective measures, and placement of structures.

Alcova Rim; Mikes Draw, T. 37 N., R. 83 W.; Head of Small Creek, T. 36 N., R. 82 W.; and in T. 38 N., R. 82 W., Section 4, and T. 39 N., R. 82 W., Sections 33 and 34.

Planning Decisions

SWA7: Rims and Gorges

Surface development will not be allowed within the rims of the following canyons and gorges: Deer Creek Canyon, Box Elder Creek Canyon, Rock Creek Canyon, Wagonhound Gorge, Brighton Canyon, Baldy Ridge and Peak, and Goshen Hole Rim.

Wildlife

***WL1: Habitat Management Plans**

The PRRA currently manages three wildlife areas. Table Mountain and Springer/Bump-Sullivan are managed in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) through the implementation of completed habitat management plans (HMPs).

For Table Mountain (1,540 acres), no surface development is allowed except for wildlife improvements. Improvements now in place are 9 reservoirs, islands constructed in reservoirs, 12 shelterbelts, approximately 150 goose nest structures installed in ponds and on islands, aerators in reservoirs 1 and 8, and fences. The Table Mountain area will be recommended for withdrawal from operation of the 1872 Mining Law.

We will seek to acquire 20 acres through exchange. This acquisition would increase duck and pheasant nesting habitat and provide a buffer zone to protect a pond that serves as a resting area for geese.

For Springer/Bump-Sullivan (600 acres), no surface development is allowed except for wildlife improvements. Reservoirs, fences, shelterbelts, and goose nest structures are now in place in this area. This area will be recommended for withdrawal from operation of the 1872 Mining Law.

A draft preliminary plan has been prepared for Jackson Canyon, which is managed solely by the BLM. Jackson Canyon is described in the "Special Designations" section near the end of this section.

HMPs will be prepared for Bates Creek Reservoir, Bates Creek aquatic habitat, Upper Laramie River, Teal Marsh Reservoir, Thirty-three Mile Reservoir, Rawhide Unit, Medicine Bow, Bolton Creek, and Stinking Creek.

For Bates Creek Reservoir, we will pursue acquisition of 3 miles of access across state land, conduct prescribed burning, monitor sage grouse use, construct islands, and monitor waterfowl use.

For Bates Creek aquatic habitat (700 acres) we will fence portions of the stream to exclude

livestock, seek a walk-in easement of ¼ mile, identify and designate a primitive parking area, and fence that area to restrict vehicle traffic. We will monitor fishing pressure and cooperate with WGFD in stocking fish or improving streams.

For the Upper Laramie River (600 acres), we need to obtain easements for 1 ¼ miles of road and for ¼ mile for walk-in. Acquisition of these easements is a low priority; they will not be acquired unless the BLM can provide necessary management, including enforcement and maintenance. We will construct a primitive parking area if access is acquired in the future. We will monitor fishing pressure and cooperate with WGFD to identify the need for stocking fish and for stream improvements.

For Teal Marsh Reservoir (80 acres) and Thirty-three Mile Reservoir (80 acres), we will provide exclosure fences and monitor range condition and waterfowl use.

For the Bolton Creek Aquatic HMP (200 acres), we will monitor stream improvement and use of the area by wildlife. The WGFD manages wildlife populations, including beaver. The BLM manages wildlife habitat. Management of beaver populations to raise the water table is proposed.

For the Stinking Creek Aquatic HMP (500 acres), we will construct an exclosure fence for monitoring purposes and transplant and manage beaver populations in coordination with the WGFD.

For the Medicine Bow HMP (about 50,000 acres) we will control beaver in coordination with WGFD where riparian vegetation has been destroyed, develop springs and seeps to provide year-round water, temporarily exclude livestock from riparian areas as needed, and establish cottonwood perch trees in bald eagle winter habitat.

For the Rawhide Unit HMP (200 acres), we will consider construction of goose nesting structures on islands and riverbanks. We will control cattails and bulrushes as needed, control noxious weeds, and construct a parking area and canoe launching site. This will be a cooperative effort with the WGFD.

***WL2: Antelope Habitat Management**

Throughout critical antelope winter range in Natrona County, we will correct fences on public land if it is determined that a fence unreasonably restricts antelope movement. New fence construction on all antelope range will conform to the standards set forth in Section 1737.32A of the *BLM Manual*.

Planning Decisions

Permanent water sites for antelope will be developed, if water is available, in the following areas: T30N, R85W, NW¼; T30N, R86W, NE¼; T31N, R85W, SW¼; T31N, R86W, E1.2; T35N, R82W, E½; T36N, R82W, S½; T36N, R83W, N½; T37N, R82W, N½; T38N, R81W, W½; T37N, R83W.

No surface development will be allowed from November 15 through April 30 in critical antelope winter ranges. This decision can be waived by the district manager. It does not apply to maintenance of existing facilities.

***WL3: Deer Habitat Management**

No surface development will be allowed from November 15 through April 30 in critical deer winter ranges. This decision can be waived by the district manager. It does not apply to maintenance of existing facilities.

A permanent water source will be provided in deer summer range in the vicinity of the Soda Beds, T36N, R83W, Section 31.

***WL4: Sage Grouse Leks**

No surface development will be allowed within a radius of ¼ mile from the center of a sage grouse strutting ground (lek). So that the nesting area around the strutting ground can be protected, surface development will be allowed within 1 ¾ miles from the ¼-mile protection zone only between June 15 and March 1. Exceptions to the time and distance limitations in any particular year may be authorized by the district manager.

***WL5: Critical Winter Range for Elk**

No surface development will be permitted on the following parcels of the Muddy Mountain critical winter range for elk—a total of 3,440 acres.

T. 31 N.; R. 78 W.

- Sec. 4: W½W½, NE¼NW¼, E½SW¼, S½SE¼;
- Sec. 5: N½NE¼, SW¼NE¼, NW¼, NE¼SW¼, S½SW¼, W½SE¼, SE¼SE¼;
- Sec. 6: N½;
- Sec. 7: E½SE¼;
- Sec. 8: W½, W½NE¼, SE¼NE¼, N½SE¼, SE¼SE¼;
- Sec. 9: All;
- Sec. 10: W½SW¼;
- Sec. 15: NW¼NW¼;
- Sec. 17: N½N½.

T. 32 N.; R. 78 W.

- Sec. 31: SW¼, W½SE¼, NE¼SE¼;
- Sec. 32: SW¼, S½SE¼;
- Sec. 33: S½SW¼.

The remaining critical winter range for elk in the resource area will be leased subject to the following stipulation:

No surface development will be permitted from November 15 through April 30. This does not apply to maintenance of existing facilities.

***WL6: Bald Eagles**

No surface development will be permitted on the following winter roosting areas for bald eagles—a total of 17,684 acres.

T. 32 N.; R. 79 W.

- Sec. 18: Lot 5;
- Sec. 19: Lots 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 through 66;
- Sec. 20: Lot 5, SW¼SW¼;
- Sec. 30: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, E½W½, S½NE¼, W½SE¼;
- Sec. 31: Lots 1, 2.

T. 32 N.; R. 80 W.

- Sec. 7: Lots, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, NW¼SE¼, SW¼NE¼;
- Sec. 8: Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, SW¼NE¼, SE¼;
- Sec. 9: S½;
- Sec. 10: S½S½;
- Sec. 13: SE¼SE¼, S½SW¼, NW¼SW¼;
- Sec. 14: SE¼, S½NE¼, W½;
- Sec. 15: All;
- Sec. 17: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, NE¼, S½SW¼, SW¼SE¼;
- Sec. 18: Lots 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, SE¼;
- Sec. 19: Lots 3, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, SW¼NE¼;
- Sec. 20: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, NE¼;
- Sec. 21: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, NW¼;
- Sec. 22: All;
- Sec. 23: All;
- Sec. 24: W½, E½E½, SW¼NE¼, NW¼SE¼;
- Sec. 25: S½, S½N½, N½NE¼, NW¼NW¼;
- Sec. 26: E½;
- Sec. 27: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16;
- Sec. 34: Lots 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15;
- Sec. 35: E½.

T. 31 N.; R. 80 W.

- Sec. 2: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S½NW¼, NW¼SW¼.

T. 32 N.; R. 81 W.

- Sec. 12: S½S½, NW¼SE¼, SE¼NW¼, NE¼SW¼;
- Sec. 13: All;
- Sec. 14: E½E½.

T. 33 N.; R. 81 W.

- Sec. 13: W½SW¼, SE¼SW¼;
- Sec. 14: NE¼SE¼, W½SW¼, SE¼SW¼;
- Sec. 15: S½NE¼, NW¼, N½SE¼, SE¼SE¼;
- Sec. 23: W½, S½NE¼, SE¼;
- Sec. 24: NW¼, S½, S½NE¼;
- Sec. 25: N½, N½SE¼, SW¼, SW¼NW¼;
- Sec. 26: NE¼, E½SE¼, NE¼NW¼.

T. 35 N.; R. 83 W.

- Sec. 19: W½SW¼;
- Sec. 30: W½NW¼.

T. 34 N.; R. 84 W.

- Sec. 2: NW¼NW¼;
- Sec. 3: N½, N½S½.

T. 35 N.; R. 84 W.

- Sec. 13: SW¼SE¼, SE¼SW¼;
- Sec. 24: E½, E½W½;
- Sec. 25: NE¼, E½NW¼;
- Sec. 27: SW¼, W½SE¼, SE¼SE¼;
- Sec. 28: SE¼SE¼;
- Sec. 33: E½NE¼, NE¼SE¼;
- Sec. 34: All;
- Sec. 35: W½SW¼.

Planning Decisions

No disturbance to trees or improvement in roads or legal access will be allowed in these bald eagle winter ranges except as needed for fire suppression or for control of pine beetle infestations. Pine beetle control efforts within bald eagle winter habitat will be conducted only from April 1 to October 31.

On the remaining bald eagle winter habitat in the resource area, no surface development will be allowed from November 1 through March 31.

***WL7: Raptors**

Where surface development proposals threaten the active nests of high federal or state interest raptor species, the PRRA will designate a suitable biologic buffer zone around the nest or nests where no surface development is permitted during the nesting season. Species identified jointly by the BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as high interest species are bald eagle, golden eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, merlin, ferruginous hawk, Cooper's hawk, Swainson's hawk, and burrowing owl. An active nest is defined as one that has been used at least once during the previous three years.

The size of the buffer zone will be determined case by case by the BLM area manager, who will consider topography and raptor prey habitat surrounding the nest site. Usually the buffer zone will be ¼ to ½ mile. BLM personnel will determine buffer zones for active eagle nests and for cliff nesting sites of falcons in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nesting seasons are as follows: bald eagle, November 1 through April 1; golden eagle, February 1 through July 15; osprey, merlin, and Cooper's hawk, April 15 through August 15; peregrine falcon and prairie falcon, March 15 through August 1; ferruginous hawk, March 15 through July 15; Swainson's hawk, April 1 through July 31; and burrowing owl, April 15 through July 15.

WL8: Turkeys

No tree cutting will be allowed in critical winter habitat for turkeys (2,360 acres).

WL9: Black-footed Ferret Habitat

No surface development will be allowed within prairie dog towns until it is determined that a development proposal will not adversely affect the

black-footed ferret. Such determination will be made through a biological assessment by the BLM or through consultation with the USFWS under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Prairie dog control may be initiated where the following criteria are met:

Treatment of prairie dog towns will be considered only if a written request is received from the owner of adjacent property or the grazing lessee.

A ferret search will be conducted on public lands before approval is granted for treatment. No prairie dog control measures will be allowed on public land in areas where black-footed ferret sightings or confirmed sign has been recorded within the last five years, or if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines the town is essential habitat for the survival of the ferret.

No prairie dog control measures will be carried out on prairie dog towns that are more than ½ mile from private land.

Treatment of private land must be done concurrently with treatment of public land.

WL10: Riparian Habitat

Stream bank cover will be planted and the plantings fenced at the North Fork and Middle Fork of Buffalo Creek and the North Fork and Middle Fork of Trout Creek.

Special Designations

***SD1: Pterodactyl Track (natural history)**

The Pterodactyl Track area will be evaluated for significant paleontological resources, and a mineral withdrawal from the 1872 Mining Law will be recommended if necessary. No surface occupancy would be allowed inside the withdrawal area. The 1,200-acre ACEC designation will be eliminated.

***SD2: Red Wall (recreation)**

The ACEC designation for the Red Wall will be eliminated. Surface development will not be allowed within ½ mile of either side of the Red Wall.

Planning Decisions

SD3: Salt Creek ACEC (soil, water, and air)

The Salt Creek drainage to its confluence with the South Fork of the Powder River is managed as an ACEC. Salt Creek and portions of Teapot Creek that have been identified as sensitive drainages are included in the Salt Creek ACEC. Implementation of the ACEC plan will be in the following priority order: Salt Creek oil field, Smokey Gap oil field, and East Teapot oil field.

Short-term, intermediate, and long-term stream monitoring surveys (Level II) will be continued in the ACEC as defined in the "Soils, Water, and Air" part of this section under "SWA1: Watershed Plans."

The Salt Creek ACEC plan will be revised to provide for inventory and evaluation of historic oil and gas sites, structures, and townsites that may be eligible for nomination to the National Register. The Salt Creek oil field will be designated as a historic district if applicable. In no case will the designation interfere with oil and gas development or production in producing fields within this area.

***SD4: Jackson Canyon ACEC (wildlife)**

The Jackson Canyon ACEC contains 3,600 federal surface acres and 11,150 federal mineral acres, for a total of 13,760 acres in the ACEC. We will control pine beetle infestations in this area through a more active forest management program, designate bald eagle roosts as priority full suppression areas for wildlife control, evaluate whether or not oil and gas leases should be renewed, and incorporate fire suppression as part of the HMP. We also will install signs and road closures and monitor conflicts between recreation use and eagles. A withdrawal will be recommended on 3,600 acres of federal mineral estate in bald eagle roost areas.

No rights-of-way will be permitted in this ACEC. ORV use will be allowed only on designated roads and only from April 1 through October 31. There will be no increase or improvement in roads or legal access. Administrative access may be necessary to maintain bald eagle habitat. The ACEC will be managed in accordance with the ACEC Wildlife Habitat Management plan.

Fire suppression will be conducted as needed. Beetle control will be conducted only between April 1 and October 31.

***SD5: Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Area (recreation)**

The 1,260-acre Muddy Mountain EEA will be managed for recreation, wildlife, forest resources, and environmental education. Campgrounds, the interpretive center, fences, and trails will be maintained. The area will be recommended for withdrawal from the operation of the 1872 Mining Law.

A winter snowmobile area, a forest demonstration area, and a natural area will be provided. The 700-acre natural area will be protected from development. Forest management will proceed in this area to control beetles and manage forest stands.

***SD6: Casper Sand Dunes (soil, water, and air)**

The 13,560 acres of the Casper Sand Dunes will be managed to protect fragile watershed values. ORV use will be confined to existing roads and trails during big game hunting seasons and on designated roads and trails the rest of the year. We will pursue acquisition of access to this area only if public demand and landowners' cooperation is evident. Grazing leases will be maintained. A watershed plan to be developed for this area will be coordinated with the wildlife and range programs. The plan will clarify any special mitigation that may be required to reduce impacts associated with development proposals.

SD7: Natural Landmarks

Surface development proposals in the following natural landmarks will be evaluated case by case to determine impacts to the site. If the impacts are not significant and can be mitigated, the development will be allowed.

Hells Half Acre, T35N, R56W, Sec. 1: N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; T35N, R85W, Sec. 6: NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Badwater Grey Hills, T39N, R88W, Sec. 21: SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 33: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; T38N, R88W, Sec. 4: All, Sec. 5: All

Rainbow Hills of Arminto, Sec. 4: E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 5: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 7: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 8: SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 9: All, Sec. 17: W $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 18: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Precambrian Gneiss of the Big Horns (no federal surface).

Prescriptions for Resource Management Units



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The resource management plan is presented here by RMU. Management prescriptions for each RMU define the types of resource uses planned for that RMU. RMU prescriptions focus chiefly on the resource values present in the RMU involved. A map for each RMU depicts the major management actions. Where no particular resource value is dominant, the prescription focuses on major or priority management actions planned to improve, sustain, or protect resources in the unit. If management of a particular resource is not discussed for a given RMU, there are no special prescriptions; management of that program for that RMU would be carried out according to the planning decisions described in the "Planning Decisions" section of this document. In all cases, RMU prescriptions have been guided by the planning decisions.

This process affords detailed direction to specific geographic units and provides a clear picture of what BLM program actions will be initiated to manage resources over a ten-year period. It also will serve as an important budgeting tool. As priority programs and actions are characterized by unit, workforce requirements and materials can be budgeted systematically to support planned actions.

The RMUs are identified as follows:

- RMU 1: South Big Horn Mountains
- RMU 2: Pine Mountain-Goldeneye Reservoir
- RMU 3: Oregon-Mormon Trail
- RMU 4: Fremont Canyon
- RMU 5: Salt Creek
- RMU 6: Casper Sand Dunes
- RMU 7: North Platte River
- RMU 8: Casper Mountain-Muddy Mountain-Jackson Canyon
- RMU 9: Bates Hole
- RMU 10: Laramie Range Foothills
- RMU 11: Ross
- RMU 12: Mule Shoe Flats-Richeau Hills
- RMU 13: Rawhide-Table Mountain-Springer/Bump-Sullivan
- RMU 14: Remaining PRRA

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH RMU

RMU 1: South Big Horn Mountains

The South Big Horns RMU (RMU 1) contains about 381,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface, 349,000 acres of state and private lands, and 404,000 acres of federal mineral estate. Dominant resource values are grazing, recreation, and wildlife. Other resource values are forest resources, oil and gas, and salable minerals such as sand and gravel, moss rock, and flagstone. Mining claims are present for bentonite, gold, and silver. There are prehistoric cultural sites in three areas.

Management emphasis will be on grazing (all or parts of 10 "I" (improve) category allotments and 11 "M" (maintain) category allotments, forestry, recreation, and wildlife (related timber harvest, recreation facility maintenance, and maintenance of wildlife habitat); and lands and realty (obtaining access agreements and disposing of isolated unmanageable lands). Oil and gas potential in the portion of the unit west of the Red Wall and north of the Badwater and Lost Cabin-Arminto roads is low to moderate; the rest of the unit has high potential for oil and gas. Fire suppression zones are required to direct suppression priorities.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resource inventories will be conducted on all federal surface and as necessary on split-estate parcels before any surface-disturbing activities begin. Mitigation will be directed toward eliminating or reducing adverse impacts to potentially significant cultural resources. The Rock Cairn Trail and site 48NA940 will be protected. The Notches Dome Archeologic District will be protected, but exploration and development of the oil and gas resource will be allowed.

Energy and Minerals

The BLM will continue to issue sales and free use permits in environmentally acceptable areas for mineral material, including moss rock and sand and gravel. Oil and gas exploration and development will be allowed in areas where such activity is environmentally acceptable.

Surface development will be prohibited within ½ mile of either side of the Red Wall.

Development will be permitted throughout the rest of the RMU, subject to the planning decisions that protect wildlife, soil, water, and cultural resources.

Management Prescriptions

Fire Management

Priority full suppression zones are planned for forestry and recreation (4,800 acres), wildlife (5,800 acres), and oil and gas fields (6,400 acres). Urban/rural interface buffer zones and adjoining private land values will require that 3,800 acres of scattered BLM parcels be managed for full fire suppression.

The planned limited suppression zone encompasses more than half the South Big Horns RMU—approximately 300,000 acres. Buffer zones ¼ mile wide will be established between areas of priority suppression and limited suppression. Full suppression actions will be taken in these areas, as currently directed. These areas cover approximately 52,500 acres.

Additional fire suppression constraints will be incorporated with the existing critical elk winter range, and any pertinent cultural protection standards will be included in the normal fire year plan and the operational plan for priority full suppression.

As part of the limited suppression planning and implementation, owners of intermingled parcels of land within limited suppression zones will be contacted for their approval of incorporating private lands of similar low value, low risk into the limited suppression plan. Twelve cooperative agreements will be needed.

Prescribed burning will be implemented on about 7,500 acres after 14 burn plans are completed on 11 grazing allotments and one stock driveway. Fire prescriptions will be initiated to enhance forestry and wildlife values in the Badwater, Upper Forks of Buffalo Creek, and Taylor Slope areas, as dictated by field intensive study.

Forest Management

About 500 MBF per year will be harvested on about 100 acres in the Grave Springs area for approximately three or four years between 1990 and 1995. We will undertake the first stage of a two-stage shelterwood cut and plan for 10 to 15 clearcuts of 3 to 5 acres each. When the stand is stocked (600 trees per acre), and trees have grown to pole size, we will undertake the second stage of the shelterwood cut: to remove the remaining on growth and to perform thinnings at ten-year intervals for the seedling-sapling stage and at twenty-year intervals for the pole stage.

In the South Cottonwood/Notches Dome area and the Badwater area, we will collect forest resource data.

In the Badwater area, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance, collect data, and determine the resource potential.

In the Sioux Pass area, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance, collect data, and determine the potential of the forest resource. If sufficient resources are present to allow commercial use of forest products, we will write a plan of action for sales.

Grazing Management

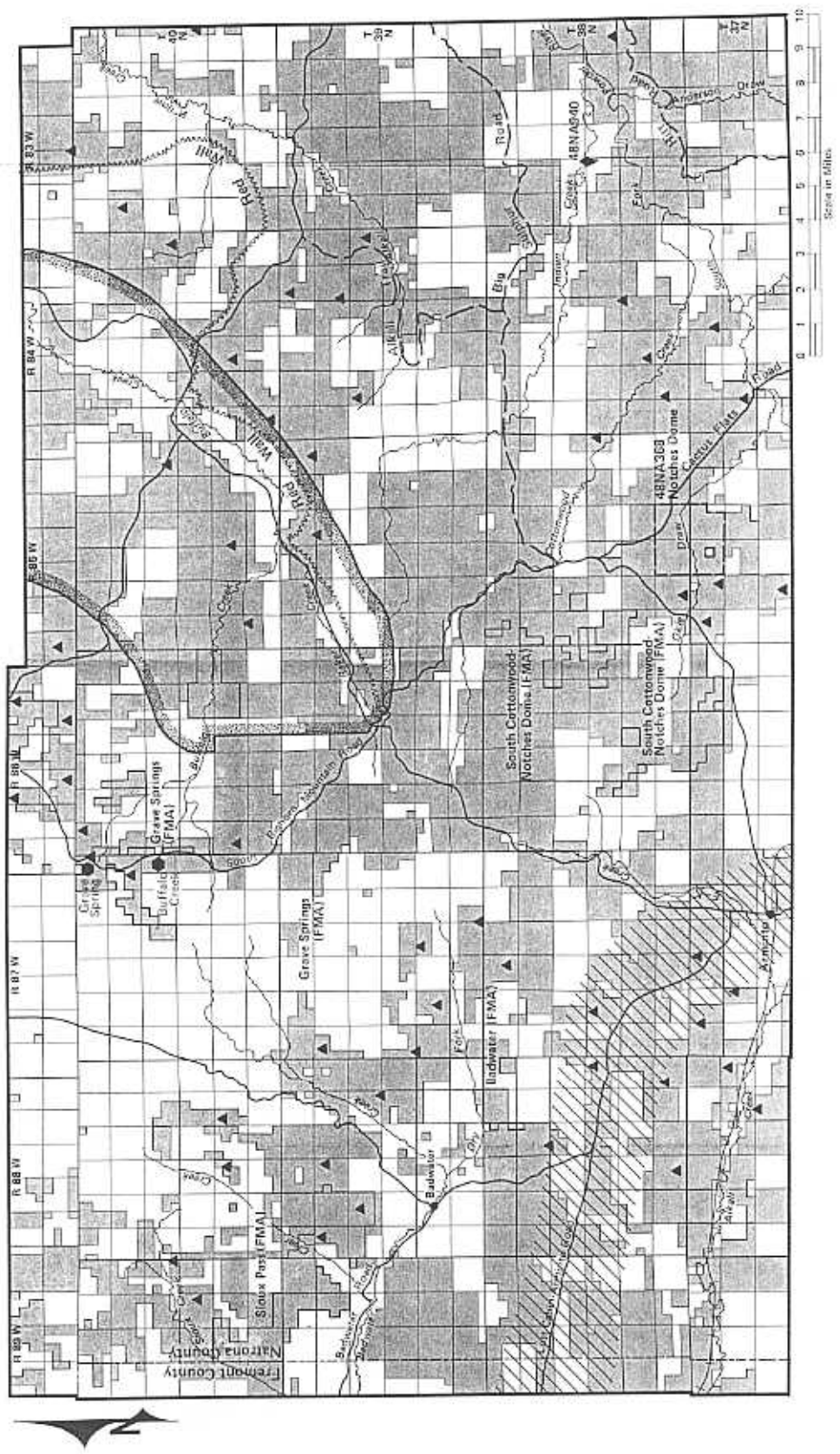
Management of allotments is shown in table 2, and range project developments and the type of supervision are defined in table 3, both in the "Planning Decisions" section.

RMU 1 contains all or parts of 10 "I" category allotments and 11 "M" category allotments. Livestock forage utilization will be monitored more intensively for livestock and deer-elk grazing conflicts in two "I" category allotments, the Buffalo Creek Ranch (Aetna Insurance Company) and Willow Creek Company. After the first five years, either these studies will be dropped because no conflict has been found or we will initiate action to settle the conflict. Such actions could include establishing seasons of use for livestock, limiting livestock numbers, or other specific actions that would address the identified livestock-wildlife conflicts. We will expand monitoring in the area to the Coffman Ranch Company and the Cloud Creek Sheep Company as necessary.

Lands

Approximately 2,520 acres have been identified for disposal in this RMU. These lands will be disposed of only by exchange or to meet important public purpose needs. Exchanges will be considered primarily to acquire private lands in critical elk range and to enhance recreation opportunities. However, when exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

A corridor is designated along the Lost Cabin-Arminto Road for placement of major rights-of-way. The area lying north and west of the Badwater, Lost Cabin-Arminto, and Buffalo Creek



- Federal Surface (381,000 acres)
- Private Surface (346,000 acres)
- Federal Mineral Estate (404,300 acres)
- Prescribed Burn Sites
- Campgrounds
- Corridor (Rights of Way)
- Forest Management Area (FMA)
- Archeological District
- Cultural Site S.O. AR W/V 05-171
- Range/Wildlife Big Game Study Area
- Existing Easement
- Proposed Easement

Management Prescriptions

roads and the Red Wall is closed to placement of rights-of-way. An exception will be made if oil and gas leases in this area achieve production. At that time, rights-of-way will be allowed only in accordance with an approved oil field development plan. Rights-of-way needed to transport products out of the area must parallel county roads except for the Big Horn Mountains, Okie Trail, and Buffalo Creek county roads.

Acquisition of access easements will be pursued on the Alkali Trail, Hitt, and Big Sulphur roads to enhance recreation opportunities and use of public lands.

Recreation Management

We will continue to manage principally for extensive and dispersed recreation use with minimal regulatory constraint, except for ORVs. ORV use will be limited to existing roads and vehicle routes on all public lands in the RMU, except in the Red Wall area. ORVs may be used in the Red Wall area only on designated roads and vehicle routes on 32,295 acres. The Red Wall area will be signed accordingly.

Buffalo Creek and Grave Springs campgrounds will continue to be managed and maintained for camping with only minimum support facilities such as vault latrines, improved access roads, trash cans, picnic tables, and designated campsites at each campground.

Soil, Water, and Air

We will study the following sensitive drainages to determine the need for preparation and implementation of watershed management plans: Anderson Draw, Okie Draw, Indian Creek, Buffalo Creek, and Badwater Creek. Further study also will be carried out for a fragile watershed area in Mikes Draw, T37N, R85W.

On the basis of cost-benefit analysis, the management plans could prescribe watershed manipulation in the form of seeding, livestock manipulation, construction of water spreaders, and construction of water detention and retention structures.

Intermediate and long-term stream monitoring will continue in the following drainages: Badwater Creek, Sioux Creek, Alkali Creek, Clear Creek, and Dry Fork of Badwater Creek.

Wildlife

Monitoring of elk winter use areas and of competition for forage between elk and livestock

will be initiated. Elk calving areas will be identified and protected. We will initiate monitoring of deer-livestock competition and monitor raptor nesting and sage grouse strutting. We also will install guzzlers, develop springs and seeps for chuckar, deer, and sage grouse, conduct ferret searches on prairie dog towns, and monitor fisheries pressure. We will coordinate with the WGFD if stocking or stream improvement should be needed, initiate brush treatment as necessary, and fence the wetlands portions of reservoirs. Improvements will be maintained as needed.

RMU 2: Pine Mountain-Goldeneye Reservoir

Pine Mountain-Goldeneye Reservoir (RMU 2) contains 26,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface and 66,000 acres of state and private lands; there are 71,000 acres in federal mineral estate. The dominant resource values are wildlife, with critical habitat for a rare and endangered species (bald eagle roosting, perching, and feeding areas) on Pine Mountain and waterfowl and fisheries populations at Goldeneye; oil and gas potential; and recreation particularly at Goldeneye Reservoir. Fire management actions are required to protect sensitive resources and important structures.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resource management will be minimal except for necessary inventories to mitigate surface-disturbing activities.

Energy and Minerals

Mining claims will be monitored as time permits. Most claims are for bentonite; some claims are for thorium, rare earths, and gold. Free use permits will be issued for sand and gravel, if those materials are available, for state and county highways. Moss rock and flagstone material sales will continue on public demand.

The oil and gas potential on and around Pine Mountain is considered to be high. There is a small field on top of the mountain with marginal productivity. Numerous dry holes have been drilled recently on and around the mountain. A deep test of the sub-thrust frontier formulation at the top of Pine Mountain is being drilled to meet West Pine Mine Mountain Deep Unit obligations.

Management will continue to focus on protection of sensitive resources and monitoring

Management Prescriptions

of impacts on bald eagle roost areas around Pine Mountain when feasible. Oil and gas potential in the vicinity of Goldeneye wildlife and recreation area is high, but little interest has been expressed to date. No development will be allowed inside that management area because the area receives intensive recreational use and emphasis is on habitat preservation.

Fire Management

Priority full suppression zones will include those for recreation, 700 acres; wildlife, 1,000 acres; oil and gas, 4,250 acres. Urban/rural interface near the towns of Powder River and Natrona and other adjoining private land values will require full suppression on 2,500 acres of scattered BLM parcels.

A limited suppression zone will be designated that will encompass an area of low value resources. This zone will comprise less than half the Pine Mountain-Goldeneye RMU, or approximately 12,000 acres. Private landowners within the limited suppression zone will be contacted for their approval of incorporation of lands of similar low value into the limited suppression plan. Six cooperative agreements will be needed.

Buffer zones ¼ mile wide will be established between areas of priority suppression and those of limited suppression. Full suppression actions will be taken in these areas, as is done now. Approximately 8,000 acres will retain existing fire suppression method constraints in bald eagle roost areas.

Prescribed burning will be implemented on 550 acres after burn plans and EAs are completed for three grazing allotments.

Forest Management

Forest management will center principally on collection of field data for Pine Mountain. If an adequate resource is present, the harvest will take place on demand. If the resource should be found unsuitable for harvest, the area will be eliminated from forest management consideration.

Grazing Management

RMU 2 contains all or part of five "I" category allotments and five "M" category allotments. The Goldeneye allotment (Brewer) will be monitored closely because of the recreational use of Goldeneye Reservoir.

Lands

Approximately 720 acres have been identified for disposal. Disposal will be implemented only by exchange or to meet public purpose needs. However, when exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

One corridor is designated along U.S. Highway 20/26 to accommodate major rights-of-way. Site-specific routing adjustments will be made to avoid conflicts with public use and recreation facilities at Goldeneye Reservoir. Easements have been acquired for pedestrian access around the reservoir. These easements provide public access to the entire shoreline for fishing and other forms of recreation.

Recreation Management

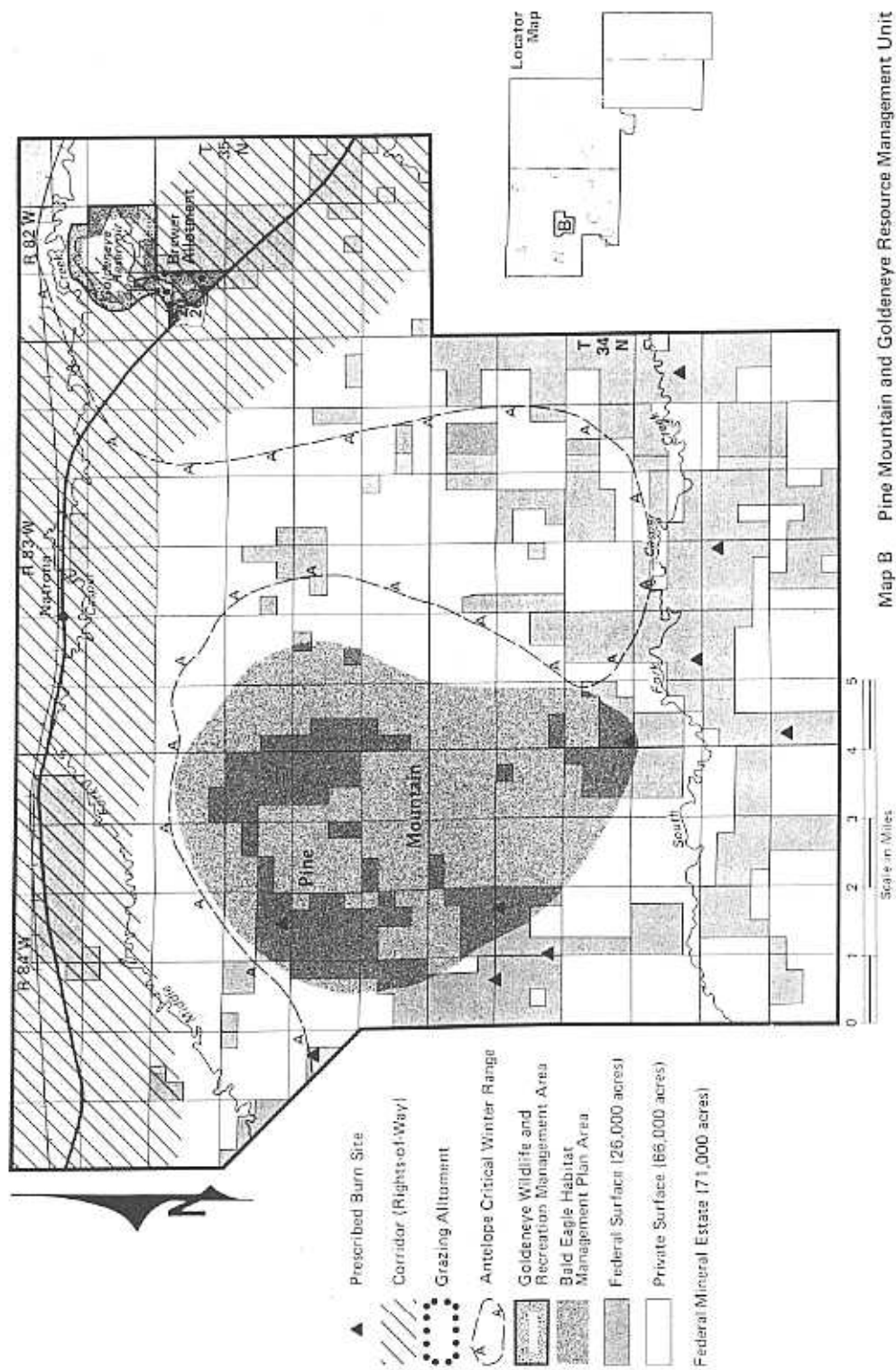
Generally, this unit will be managed as an extensive recreation management area where dispersed recreation is encouraged and where visitors will have freedom of recreation choice with minimal regulatory constraint. Goldeneye Reservoir area was designated a special recreation management area, and the Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) was completed and implemented on March 17, 1978. The plan provides detailed planning with specific objectives for use by visitors and for resource protection while recreational opportunities are provided consistent with public demand. The existing RAMP will be amended to include an overnight camping area. Support facilities to be provided are 1 vault latrine, 1 parking area, 1 boat ramp, 3 trash cans, 1 picnic ramada, 6 picnic tables, and 6 campsites.

ORV travel in the area is limited to the designated access road only.

Wildlife

The Pine Mountain bald eagle area will be included in the Jackson Canyon ACEC/HMP. Oil and gas exploration and development activities will be monitored in relation to sensitive species habitat and effect.

Studies of waterfowl nesting and productivity at Goldeneye Reservoir will be initiated. Placement of pedestrian trails and other facilities



Map C
Oregon and Marmion Trail
Resource Management Unit

Locator Map

Cultural Resources

- 1 Fort Laramie A*
- 2 Fort Laramie B*
- 3 Old Bedlam*
- 4 Ryan/Prospect Hill*
- 5 Horse Creek
- 6 Emigrant Gap*
- 7 Bonanza Bend*
- 8 Platte Island (Child's 1950 route of trail)*
*Closed to ORV Use

Grazing Allotment:

Bald Eagle Habitat - ½ mile either side of the river

This Unit applies to public lands within ½ mile of these trails.
There is no acreage consideration for this Unit.

This Unit applies to public lands within ½ mile of these trails. There is no acreage consideration for this Unit.

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will be coordinated with the landowner involved and with WGFD. Additional coordination and assistance will be provided to the WGFD for enhancement of a quality fishery and improvement of general wildlife habitat in the area.

Overall monitoring of critical antelope winter range will be initiated. Spring and reservoir development for wildlife has been identified on the Cummings and Lindsay and Sons allotments.

RMU 3: Oregon-Mormon Trail

The Oregon-Mormon Trail RMU (RMU 3) is a linear unit that encompasses lands on either side of the Oregon-Mormon trail, generally ½ mile on either side. Therefore, acreages have not been compiled. No finite boundary has been drawn along the border of the trail on the unit map. The dominant resource values of RMU 3 are historic resources and recreation resources. Of the 29 miles of trail corridors that cross BLM surface, 2¼ miles are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Other resources along the corridors are minerals. That unit also contains wildlife habitat for bald eagles, sage grouse, and raptor nesting areas.

Management in this unit will be directed primarily toward protection of the character of significant remnants of historic trail segments. Interpretation and ORV use will be managed for enhancement of the cultural resources.

Cultural Resources

The following trail segments will be protected from surface development and ORV use: Fort Laramie segments A, B, and Old Bedlam; the Ryan/Prospect Hill segment; the Horse Creek segment; Emigrant Gap; Bessemer Bend; Platte Island; Sergeant Custard; and Glade Draw.

As indicated in the *Oregon/Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails RAMP* (USDI, BLM 1985), the Fort Laramie A and B, Ryan/Prospect Hill, Sergeant Custard, Old Bedlam, Glade Draw, and Platte Island segments of the trail will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Additional trail segments that may be located will be protected on the basis of an evaluation of their significance.

Before development of federal minerals can begin, cultural resource inventory will be conducted on federal surface according to standard procedures. Existing policy on cultural resource inventory will be followed for the development of federal minerals under private surface.

Energy and Minerals

There are extensive mining claims in the area. Mineral development in Western Natrona County along the trail will be monitored to avoid destruction of any important historic trail segments.

The potential for oil and gas along most of the length of the Oregon Trail is considered high. Development is occurring in the vicinity of Willow Springs. Tracts along the Oregon Trail that are known to contain significant historic resources have been leased for oil and gas. No surface development is allowed on those tracts, so that site integrity is protected on the trail segments.

Fire Management

Suppression methods under current management will be retained. Locations of the trail system will be plotted so that they can be incorporated into the normal fire year plan.

Some areas along the Oregon Trail from Casper to the west edge of the resource area will be in a limited suppression zone. The rest of the trail will be retained in full suppression according to standard procedure. No priority will be placed on cultural resources except that they will be protected from adverse suppression actions.

Surface-disturbing suppression actions such as use of heavy equipment for blading vegetation or fireline construction will be prohibited on the segments of the Oregon/Mormon Trail described under "Cultural Resources."

Any cooperative agreement with other federal, state, or county firefighting agencies will stipulate the cultural resource concerns in their respective areas.

Grazing Management

The Oregon Trail runs through one "I" category allotment and two "M" category allotments. The primary allotment to be affected by actions to protect the Oregon Trail is the Rattlesnake Grazing Association.

Lands

No land disposal actions will be considered on the important trail segments identified. Exchanges will be pursued to acquire private land containing rut segments at Ryan Hill and Alkali Slough.

A portion of the Oregon Trail corridor designation parallels the Oregon Trail between Oil Mountain and Emigrant Ridge. A new corridor will

Management Prescriptions

be designated in this area. The planned corridor is described in detail in section "L3: Corridors" under "Lands" in the "Planning Decisions" section of this document.

Recreation Management

The purpose of establishment of a national historic trail is the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment. The potential for public outdoor recreation or historical interest is based on interpretation and appreciation of the trail's history. Site-specific decisions related to the management of the recreational and historical resources of the Oregon-Mormon Trail in the PRRA will be provided by the statewide *Oregon/Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails RAMP* (USDI, BLM 1985).

We will continue to administer special recreation use permits for travel on the trail case by case, coordinating such permission with involved landowners. All segments (955 acres) of the trail will be closed to ORV use yearlong to protect cultural resource values.

Overall recreation management will emphasize monitoring, use supervision, and enforcement to resolve conflicts between users and landowners. Recreation services will be limited to interpretive brochures, maps, signs, support facilities, and maintenance. No significant facility development is planned.

Wildlife

An HMP will be written for bald eagle areas along the trail. This will be addressed in the Jackson Canyon HMP/ACEC. We also will monitor use areas and identify any recreation use conflicts. The need for monitoring sage grouse strutting grounds and raptor nesting habitat is critical, particularly along the Oregon-Mormon Trail route in western Natrona County.

RMU 4: Fremont Canyon

The Fremont Canyon RMU (RMU 4) comprises 12,000 acres of BLM-administered land, 12,000 acres of state and private lands, and 22,000 acres of federally administered mineral estate. The dominant resource values are prehistoric fossils (pterodactyl track area), recreation, and raptor habitat. The focus of attention for this unit is the canyon area itself. Lands surrounding this unique area contain important values for other resources

such as minerals, soil, and watershed.

Cultural Resources

The intensity of cultural resource management will be low. Inventories and mitigation of surface-disturbing activities will be initiated according to the nature of proposed actions.

Energy and Minerals

Mining claims in the general area will be monitored as the need arises, and plans for mining will be reviewed if claims should be proposed for development. We will continue to issue moss rock sales where permissible and consider aggregate removal beyond ¼ mile from the Platte River, where such removal will not conflict with the canyon or the pterodactyl track area.

Although much of the unit has been leased for oil and gas in the past, there has been no exploratory or drilling activity. The canyon area itself is protected by a ¼-mile buffer zone on each side and will not be subject to drilling activity because of its steep walls and the perennial stream that flows at the bottom of the canyon. Seasonal restrictions are applied for protection of bald eagle habitat.

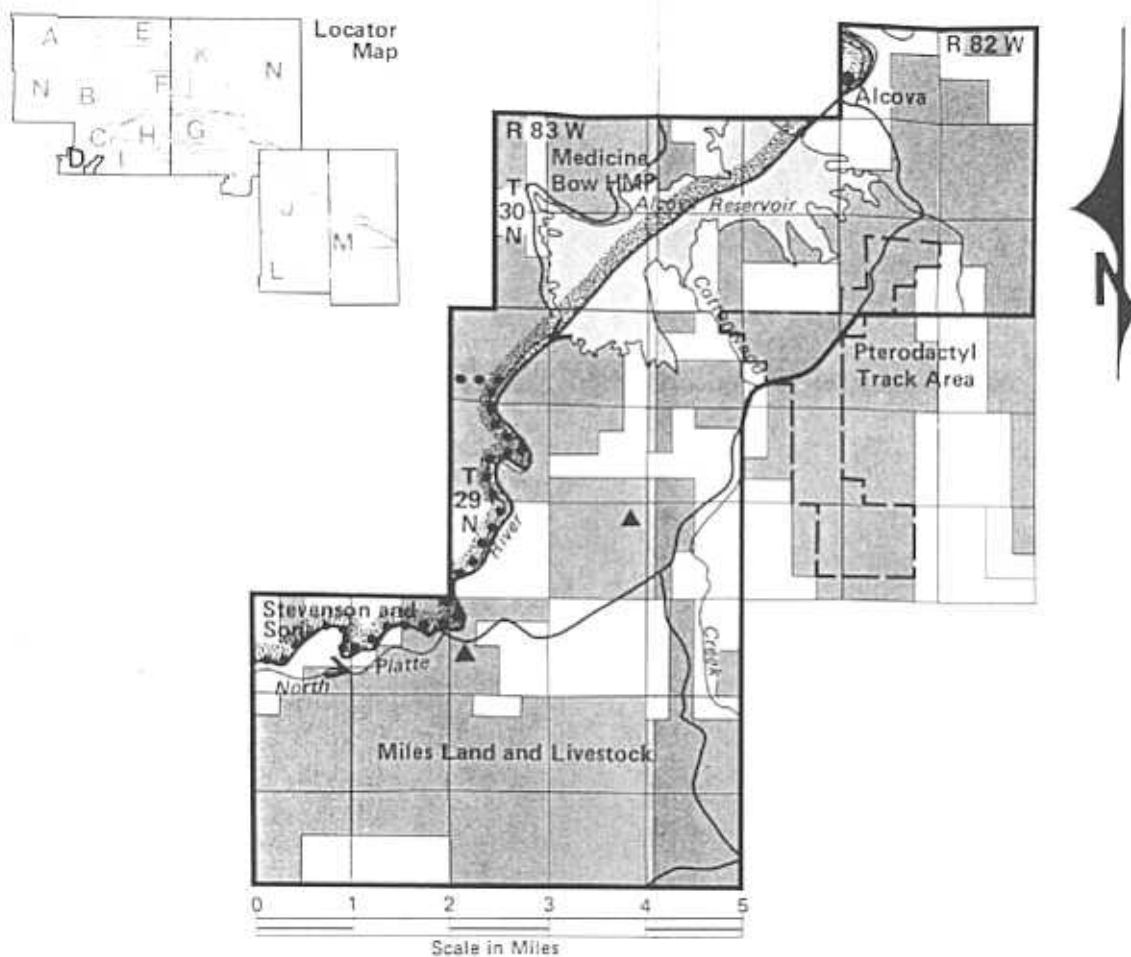
Fire Management


Because of priority full suppression zones for recreation, wildlife, and urban/rural interface buffer zones around the town of Alcova, as well as other adjoining private land values, approximately 500 acres of BLM-managed land will be under priority full suppression.


A limited suppression zone will be initiated. It will encompass less than half the Fremont Canyon RMU, approximately 9,400 acres.

Buffer zones ¼ mile wide will be established between areas of priority suppression and limited suppression. Suppression actions taken in these areas will be full suppression, as now, on approximately 1,780 acres.

As part of the limited suppression planning and implementation, owners of intermingled parcels of private land within limited suppression zones will be contacted for their approval of incorporation of private lands of similar low value and low risk into the limited suppression plan. Three cooperative agreements will be needed. Prescribed burning will be implemented on 300 acres after a burn plan and EA are completed on the Miles Land and Livestock allotment.



 Federal Surface (21,000 acres)

 Private Surface (3,000 acres)

Federal Mineral Estate (22,000 acres)

 Habitat Management Plan (HMP)

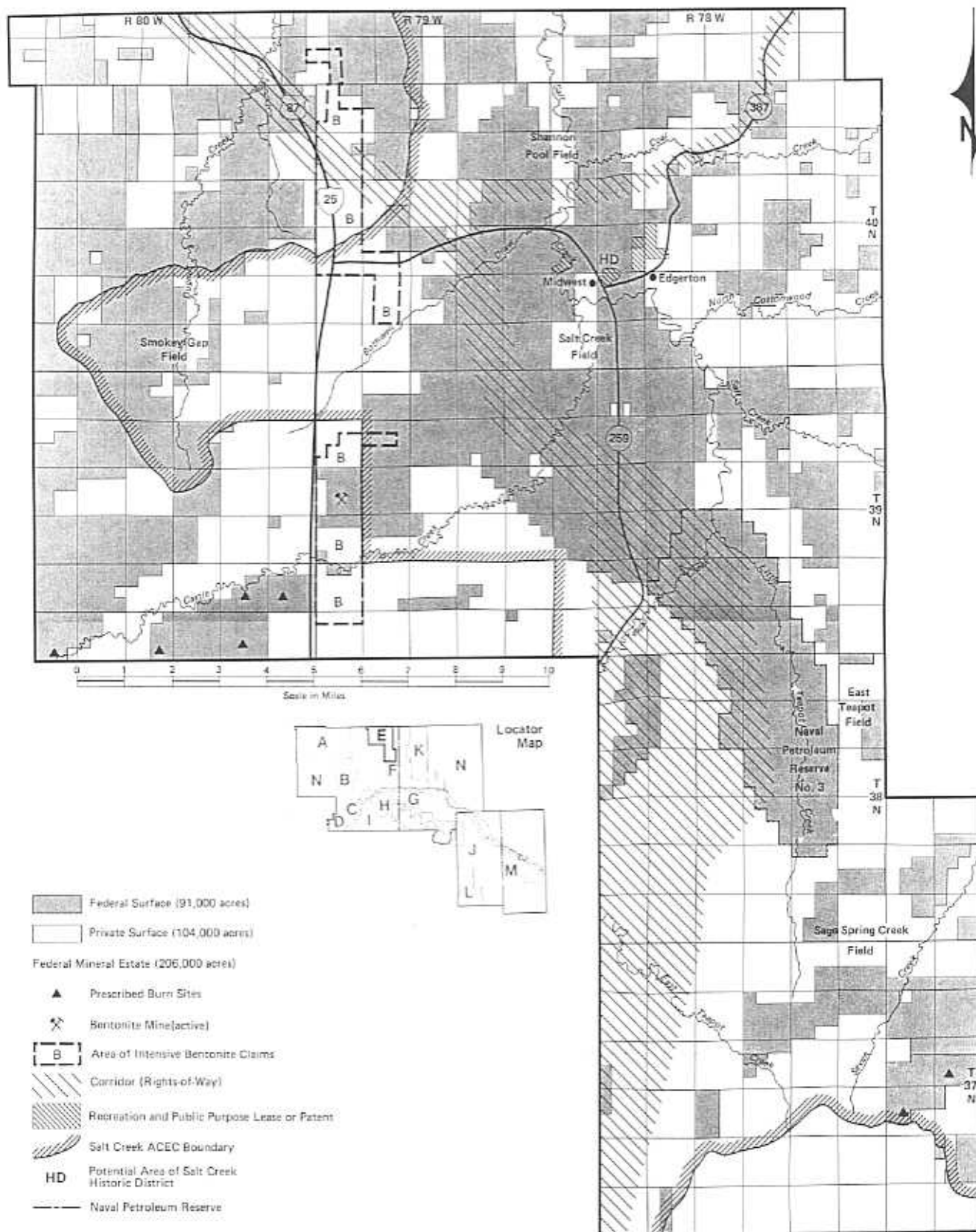
 Prescribed Burn Sites

 Cultural Resources

 Grazing Allotment

 Fremont Canyon

Map D Fremont Canyon Resource Management Unit



Grazing Management

This area contains two "I" category allotments, Miles Land and Livestock and Stevenson and Sons. (Allotment categories are explained in appendix E of the draft RMP/EIS.)

Lands

All the public land in this RMU will be retained and managed because of the importance of multiple resources and because there are no isolated or fragmented parcels.

The existing C&MU Act classification on Fremont Canyon will be terminated, opening this area to operations under the mining laws. A new withdrawal from the operations under the 1872 Mining Law will be recommended for the pterodactyl track site. Before the site is withdrawn, the actual fossil area will be redefined. Preliminary investigation indicates that the fossil area may be about 400 acres. No surface development will be allowed in the pterodactyl track area unless it is directed at site interpretation.

Recreation Management

Public land in this unit will be managed as an extensive recreation management area where dispersed recreation will be encouraged and where visitors will have freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint. The exception is ORV use. ORVs will be confined to existing roads and vehicle routes.

Soil, Water, and Air

No surface development will be permitted within ¼ mile of the North Platte River within Fremont Canyon.

Wildlife

The area will be managed for protection of bald eagle habitat and potential peregrine falcon habitat, golden eagle nesting areas, prairie falcon nesting areas, and sage grouse strutting grounds.

A joint HMP between the PRRA and the neighboring Medicine Bow resource area is planned to direct management and project needs for part of the unit. The Medicine Bow HMP boundary is the North Platte River. The HMP area is west of the river.

Project locations and design will be planned, if needed, for fencing of select riparian areas and for development of springs.

RMU 5: Salt Creek

The Salt Creek RMU, which includes land in Natrona and Johnson counties, comprises about 347,000 acres. The Natrona County portion of the RMU amounts to about 214,000 acres. The unit contains 91,000 acres of BLM-administered surface and about 206,000 acres of federal mineral estate. There is about 123,000 acres of private and state land.

The Salt Creek ACEC is within the boundaries of the Salt Creek RMU. Within the ACEC in Natrona County there are about 57,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface and about 84,000 acres of private surface. The BLM administers about 33,000 acres of mineral estate beneath private surface. The total mineral estate in the ACEC is about 137,000 acres. (This does not include Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3, a 9,220-acre area within the ACEC boundaries that is administered by the Department of Energy.)

Management will focus on mineral development, special management attention for the Salt Creek ACEC, fire management planning, protection of cultural resources in connection with historic significance of oil field development, and continued lands and Realty support work in connection with R&PPs, energy, and non-energy related rights-of-way.

Cultural Resources

The primary cultural resource activities in this RMU will be inventory and evaluation of potentially significant historic oil and gas sites. Because of the intensive oil field development and production, close coordination with field operators will be needed relative to any nomination of historic sites and any interpretive or protective actions for those sites.

We will inventory and evaluate the following historic oil and gas sites for National Register eligibility by 1987: Salt Creek, Shannon, Eclipse Camp, Hanly and Bird Camp, Northwestern Camp, IBA Camp, Franco Camp, South Camp, North Camp, Lavaic, Teapot, and Snyder. If warranted by inventory, we will establish Salt Creek Oil Field as a Historic District, and it will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Continued use of the field for oil and gas development will be a priority. Interpretive signs and facilities will be developed as appropriate, with the cooperation of oil and gas operators.

Cultural resources inventory will be conducted on all federal surface in accordance with existing policy.

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Energy and Minerals

Mining claims exist in 24 sections. The potential for bentonite exploration and mining is confined to the southwest portion of the unit. Few or no sales of sand and gravel or moss rock are anticipated.

Oil and gas development and production have been intensive in this area since the 1890s. Drilling and production will continue. A major part of the continued management of oil and gas production in this area will be continued emphasis on implementation of the Salt Creek ACEC plan.

Special field studies are in progress to determine effective means of reclamation and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. These studies will continue, with annual reports being prepared. Projects will be monitored so that rehabilitation practices can be improved.

Fire Management

Four priority full suppression zones will incorporate both oil and gas resources and urban/rural interfaces around Midwest and Edgerton. Approximately 23,000 acres of BLM surface will be in the priority full suppression zone.

Four limited suppression zones will be established on 33,120 acres of low value, low risk BLM surface. The remaining 34,500 acres of public land in the RMU will be managed for full suppression according to current procedures. Cooperative agreements with 11 owners of adjacent land will be pursued for inclusion of intermingled lands into the limited suppression plan.

Prescribed burning will be implemented on about 350 acres on "I" category range allotments.

Grazing Management

This area contains all or parts of three "I" category allotments and 11 "M" category allotments. Grazing management actions within the Salt Creek ACEC generally will complement the Salt Creek ACEC Management Plan.

Lands

Five existing R&PP areas provide community services and recreation opportunities for Midwest and Edgerton. As additional needs are identified, BLM leases will be considered to accommodate community needs. Title transfers will not be considered because the area immediately surrounding the towns is designated as an ACEC.

Approximately 800 acres not within the ACEC have been identified for disposal by exchange or for public purpose needs. When exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

The withdrawal on Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3 was reviewed in 1982 and continued for 100 years. The area is closed to operation of the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws. The Secretary of the Navy has jurisdiction over these lands and the Department of Energy administers them. Oil and gas are being developed under a private contract.

Corridors are designated for major right-of-way placement along Wyoming Highway 259/U.S. 87 and Wyoming Highway 387. Site-specific routing adjustments will be made to avoid direct impacts on the towns of Midwest and Edgerton and to minimize conflicts with oil and gas development in the Salt Creek and adjacent oil fields. No rights-of-way will be allowed along the newly constructed segment of I-25 in Ts. 37, 38, and 39 N., Rs. 79 and 80 W., or in the towns of Midwest or Edgerton, except for roads and other facilities serving the towns or supporting oil and gas development.

Recreation Management

The area will be managed as an extensive recreation area where visitors will have freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint, except that ORVs will be limited to existing roads and vehicle routes. Recreation management will emphasize monitoring, use supervision, and enforcement to resolve user conflicts and provide resource protection as necessary.

Soil, Water, and Air

The BLM will participate actively in the implementation of the Salt Creek ACEC Management Plan. Equal emphasis will be placed on the implementation of decisions on priority oil fields identified in the plan. The priority fields are East Teapot, South Salt Creek, Salt Creek, Smokey Gap, Shannon Pool, Sage Spring Creek, and Sherwood Unit.

Portions of the following sensitive drainages are within the Salt Creek RMU: Castle Creek, Salt Creek, and Teapot Creek. These drainages, outside the oil fields, will be studied further to determine the need for additional protective

Management Prescriptions

measures, or for the development and implementation of watershed management plans. On the basis of cost-benefit analysis, the management plans could prescribe watershed manipulation in the form of seedings, livestock manipulation, construction of water spreaders, or construction of water detention and retention structures.

Intermediate and long-term stream monitoring will continue on Salt Creek and Castle Creek. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System monitoring will continue on point discharges associated with oil fields.

Wildlife

We will monitor raptor nesting and mitigate adverse effects through seasonal or locational stipulations for oil and gas actions where necessary.

Studies will be made of deer and antelope water needs and browse conditions as part of grazing management monitoring. We will determine fencing needs for wetlands and reservoirs. Black-footed ferret searches will be conducted in prairie dog towns threatened by development.

RMU 6: Casper Sand Dunes

The Casper Sand Dunes RMU (RMU 6) comprises 39,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface and 47,000 acres of state and private lands. The federally administered mineral estate totals 75,000 acres. The dominant resources are soil, water, and vegetation on fragile soils and dunes, wildlife habitat for antelope and deer herds, and recreation resources.

Cultural Resources

A low intensity of cultural resource management will be practiced. We will conduct inventories as needed to mitigate impacts on cultural resources from surface-disturbing activities.

Energy and Minerals

Virtually no mining claims exist within the unit, and there is little development potential for sand and gravel or for solid minerals.

The southern portion of the unit was developed for oil and gas in the 1930s and 1940s in the Cole Creek field. Some exploration has occurred since then; however, there has been little new development and production. Oil and gas

exploration and development will be constrained as defined in the "Planning Decisions" section.

Fire Management

Priority suppression zones will include 300 acres near the Cole Creek oil field. Three limited suppression zones will cover 23,920 acres. Cooperative agreements with six owners of adjacent land will be pursued for inclusion of adjoining intermingled ownership lands into the limited suppression plan.

Approximately 5,600 acres of scattered BLM parcels will be included in the full suppression buffer zone. Prescribed burning will be considered if practical to improve overall range conditions where there are heavy concentrations of undesirable plants such as sagebrush.

Grazing Management

This area contains all or part of five "M" category allotments. Restrictions of ORVs and other surface development will complement livestock grazing. Grazing leases will be maintained at present use levels.

Lands

Approximately 1,040 acres have been identified for disposal, none of which are in the active dune area. These lands will be disposed of only by exchange or for public purpose needs. However, when exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

Recreation Management

Recreation management will be supportive of watershed management. This unit will be managed as an extensive recreation management area where dispersed recreation will be encouraged in locations where soil and watershed values permit.

ORV designations will limit travel to designated roads and vehicle routes on public land except during the fall hunting season, when travel will be permitted on existing roads and vehicle routes. This designation would involve 13,560 acres of public land.

There is no legal public access; access is obtained through landowner permission only. We

Management Prescriptions

will pursue acquisition of access only through a cooperative landowner agreement should public demand be evident.

Recreation management and maintenance will be minimal, with emphasis on monitoring, use supervision, and enforcement to resolve user conflicts and provide resource protection.

Soil, Water, and Air

This RMU will be managed in a manner that will prevent any further development from significantly affecting the fragile nature of the area. A watershed plan will be prepared if necessary.

Wildlife

As part of the soil and watershed plan, we will initiate studies of wetlands to determine water needs for wildlife and livestock. We will initiate a wildlife inventory to determine species and diversity in this habitat. The inventory is needed because this type of habitat is rare in the PRRA.

Prairie dog towns will be monitored for ferrets and burrowing owls as necessary.

RMU 7: North Platte River

The North Platte River RMU (RMU 7) is a linear unit comprising 4,600 acres of BLM-administered land and 12,800 acres of federal mineral estate. The dominant resources for management are wildlife and recreation. Other important values in the unit are oil and gas and the potential along the river for salable minerals.

Management in this unit will focus on a wildlife HMP for bald eagles along the North Platte River and for riparian habitat in the Rawhide area. A RAMP will be prepared for a special recreation management area along the river. Included in the plan will be seven canoe trail sites west of Casper and ten parcels fronting the river east of Casper. We will pursue acquisition of land west of Casper through exchange. Part of the unit will continue to be withdrawn from locatable minerals activity.

Cultural Resources

Low intensity management will be practiced for cultural resources. We will conduct inventories and mitigate adverse effects on cultural resources where needed.

Energy and Minerals

We will continue to protect public lands for ¼ mile on each side of the North Platte River consistent with the high recreation and wildlife values provided by the river and adjacent riparian areas.

Oil and gas potential is considered to be high along most of the river's length in the PRRA. A small oil field is operational west of Casper in the vicinity of Washout Creek. The Big Muddy Oil field between Casper and Glenrock is in a tertiary recovery phase. Most of the area along the North Platte River has been leased for oil and gas activity.

No new sand and gravel operations on federal minerals will be allowed in the ¼-mile buffer zone. Currently authorized sand and gravel operations on federal minerals within the ¼-mile buffer on the North Platte River will be allowed to continue.

Fire Management

Priority full suppression will be practiced on seven Trappers Route landings and at Bessemer Bend. These special recreation management areas along the river between Alcova and Casper cover about 200 acres. Ten other existing sites that have no facilities will continue to be included in the adjacent full suppression zone.

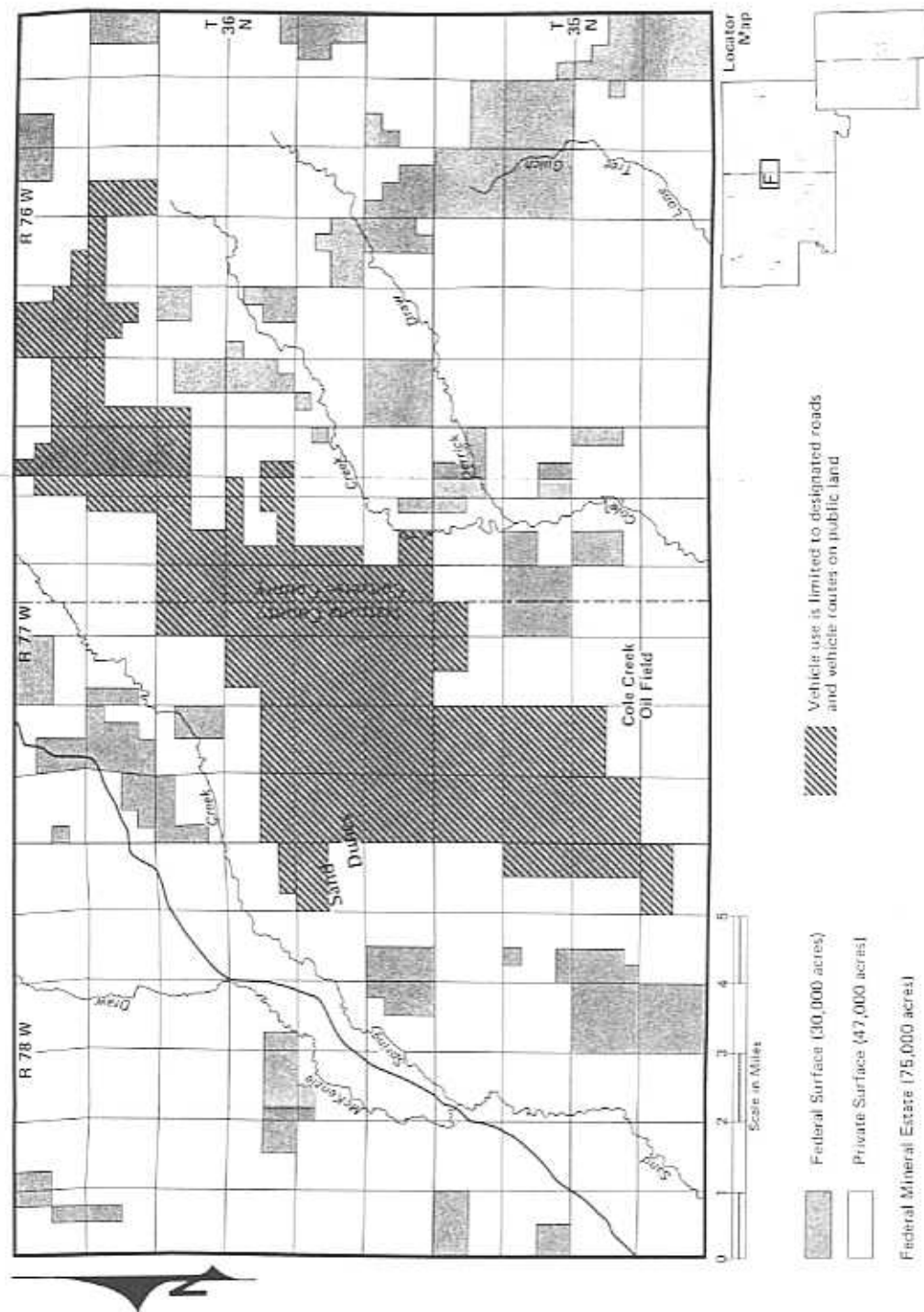
Grazing Management

Three "I" category allotments border the North Platte River. There are no proposals at this time that would restrict livestock grazing. Grazing will continue to be managed as it is now; however, significant conflicts with recreation sites or effects on riparian zones may require adjustments on these allotments.

Lands

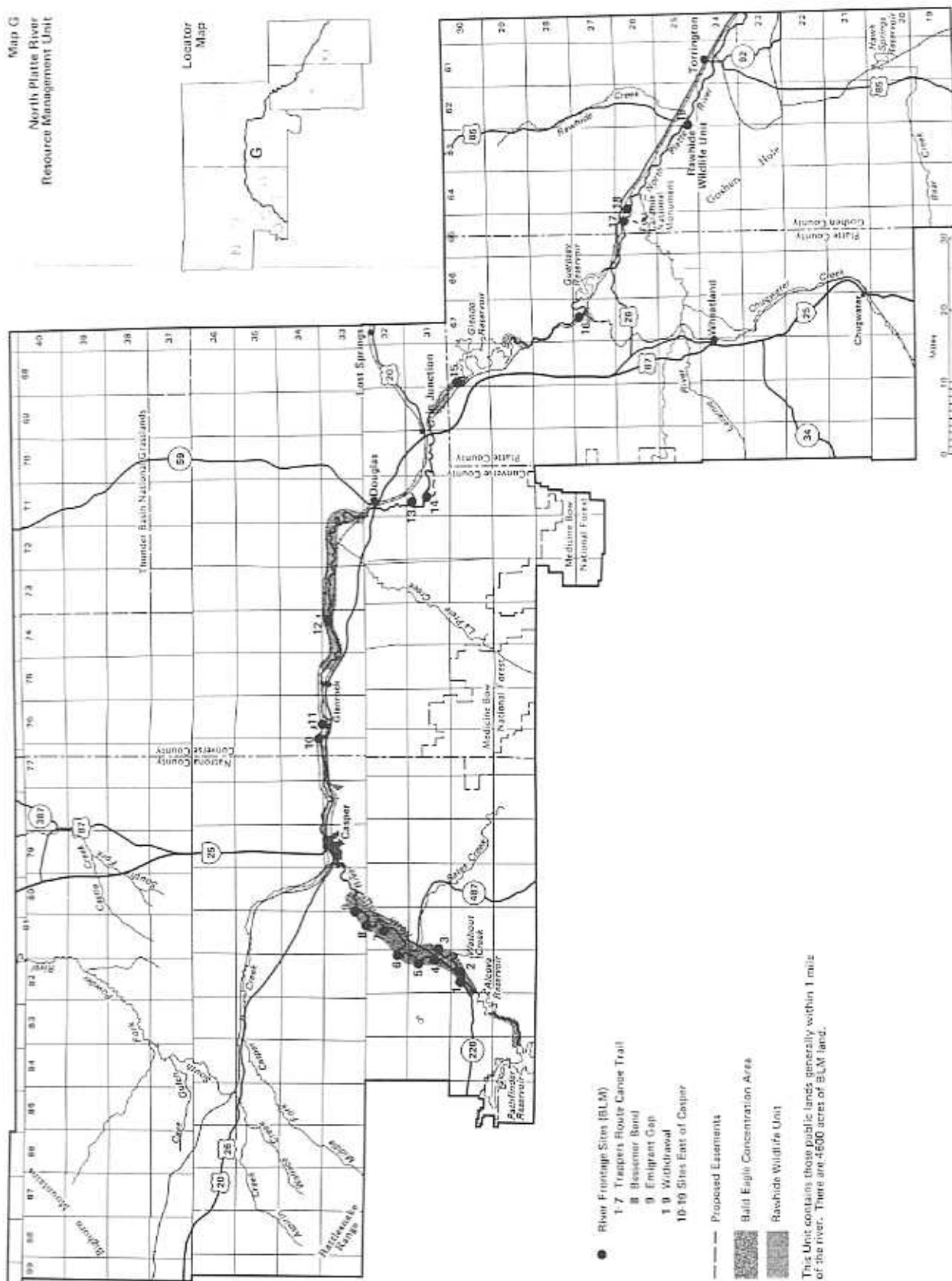
No lands have been identified for disposal except for the ten riverfront parcels east of Casper. These lands will be leased or patented only under the R&PP Act, with special emphasis on management to protect the resource values along the river. Exchanges will be pursued to acquire private land along the river west of Casper. Acquisition would improve management and promote access to recreation resources.

The existing withdrawal from mineral operations will be continued to protect 3,264.21



Map F Casper Sand Dunes Resource Management Unit

Map G
North Plate River
Resource Management Unit



Management Prescriptions

acres of river frontage. This acreage includes the seven trappers Route landings, Emigrant Gap, and Bessemer Mountain.

The corridor along the river will be phased out as existing rights-of-way are retired and removed. No future rights-of-way will be allowed in this corridor.

We will pursue acquisition of access to eight of the riverfront parcels east of Casper. Two of the ten parcels are accessible from county roads; however, physical access to the Wendover Site is constrained by existing developments and land uses. Current efforts by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to secure public access points along the river may eliminate the need for the BLM to acquire easements to all eight parcels.

Recreation Management

Approximately 4,600 acres of public land will be intensively managed as a special recreation management area. We will develop prescriptions for management by characterizing recreation opportunities in terms of setting and type of activity. Areas to be included in the intensive management are seven Trappers Route Canoe Trail sites, Bessemer Bend Historic Site, Emigrant Gap between Alcova and Casper, and ten riverfront parcels of public land between Casper and the Wyoming-Nebraska state line.

ORV use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes for 2,990 acres of public land between Alcova and Casper. All roads will be designated for ORV use.

Facility development will be limited to support facilities for recreational activities, visitor safety, and resource protection. Improvements planned are upgraded access roads, designated parking and camping to provide for BLM management of land during the peak recreation season only. One site identified is the private land between Bessemer Bend bridge and Bessemer Bend Historic Site.

Soil, Water, and Air

No surface development will be permitted on BLM-administered surface within ¼ mile of the North Platte River. The restriction will not apply to recreation facilities.

Wildlife

Wildlife management will focus on development

of a bald eagle HMP and monitoring use and feeding areas along the river. Raptor nesting areas will be monitored.

RMU 8: Casper Mountain-Muddy Mountain-Jackson Canyon

RMU 8 encompasses 31,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface, 70,000 acres of state and private land, and 70,000 acres of federal mineral estate. This area has a full range of high value resources with various management needs. The principal values are wildlife, forestry, recreation, lands and realty, and grazing.

Wildlife management actions will be aimed at protecting significant bald eagle and golden eagle roosts and implementing beetle control on trees in and around eagle roosting areas. Critical winter range for elk also will be protected.

We will manage for vegetation species diversity in concert with forestry objectives. An active forestry management program will be carried out for this unit with a planned harvest of about 750 MBF per year for about five years to combat pine beetles.

Recreational facilities include intensively used campgrounds and an environmental education area. The demand for year-round recreation is increasing among local and out-of-state users. There are 13 existing R&PP areas, disposal potential for high value land on 520 acres, and access easement needs. There is potential for exchanges to increase the environmental education area and critical winter range for elk.

The Casper Mountain Steering Committee is working with the Natrona County Planning Commission to prepare a land use plan for private land on Casper Mountain. That plan, when completed, will be coordinated with the BLM's resource management plan.

Cultural Resources

The intensity of management for cultural resources will be low, with the principal actions tied to inventory and mitigation, if required.

Energy and Minerals

One flagstone pit (Mosteller) will continue to operate. Mineral activities will be considered case

Management Prescriptions

by case in concert with recreation and wildlife plans and decisions. Several bentonite mining claims are active, and these will be monitored.

No surface development will be permitted in the Jackson Canyon portion of this unit. This will protect bald eagle winter habitat and roosting areas.

No surface development will be permitted in the Muddy Mountain EEA and its associated forest management area so that the unit's integrity as an environmental education area can be maintained. The restriction will not apply to forest or recreation management practices.

The eastern portion of this unit contains critical elk winter range, city and county parks, and R&PP grants that have been leased for oil and gas subject to a "no surface occupancy" restriction.

In portions of the RMU that have been leased with surface development permitted, such surface development is allowed only from May 1 to November 15. These areas are subject to the decisions that constrain development listed under "Soils, Water, and Air," "Wildlife," and "Recreation" in the "Planning Decisions" section of this document.

Fire Management

Fire management will have high priority on Casper Mountain because of the numerous homesites, important recreation and wildlife resources, and high fire risk. We will pursue cooperative agreements with private landowners and other fire and land management agencies so that limited suppression and priority full suppression areas can be established.

Priority full suppression zones will be established for forestry, 3,800 acres; wildlife, 2,160 acres; and recreation, 1,200 acres. The urban-rural interface near the city of Casper and other adjoining private land values will require 1,200 acres of scattered BLM parcels to be managed for priority fire suppression.

A limited suppression zone will encompass about 12,000 acres in the Casper Mountain-Muddy Mountain RMU.

Buffer zones ¼ mile wide will be established between areas of priority suppression and limited suppression. Full suppression actions will be taken in these areas, which will cover approximately 1,200 acres.

We will incorporate additional fire suppression constraints to protect existing critical elk winter range, bald eagle roost areas, and cultural

resources. These constraints will become part of the normal fire year plan and the operational plan for priority full suppression.

As part of the limited suppression planning and implementation, owners of intermingled parcels of land within limited suppression zones will be contacted for their approval of incorporation of private lands of similar low value and low risk into the limited suppression plan. Eight cooperative agreements will be needed.

Prescribed burning will be implemented on 700 acres in four grazing allotments and three forestry areas.

Forest Management

In the Little Red Creek area, we will cut approximately 100 acres per year, harvest 500 MBF per year for approximately three to five years between 1985 and 1990, and selectively cut a total of 800 acres. We will cut stands to between 40 and 60 square feet of basal area and perform thinnings at ten-year intervals for seedling-sapling stands and at 20-year intervals for pole stands. We will carry out mountain pine beetle management on 800 acres. In Jackson Canyon, we will cut beetle-infested trees and thin as necessary.

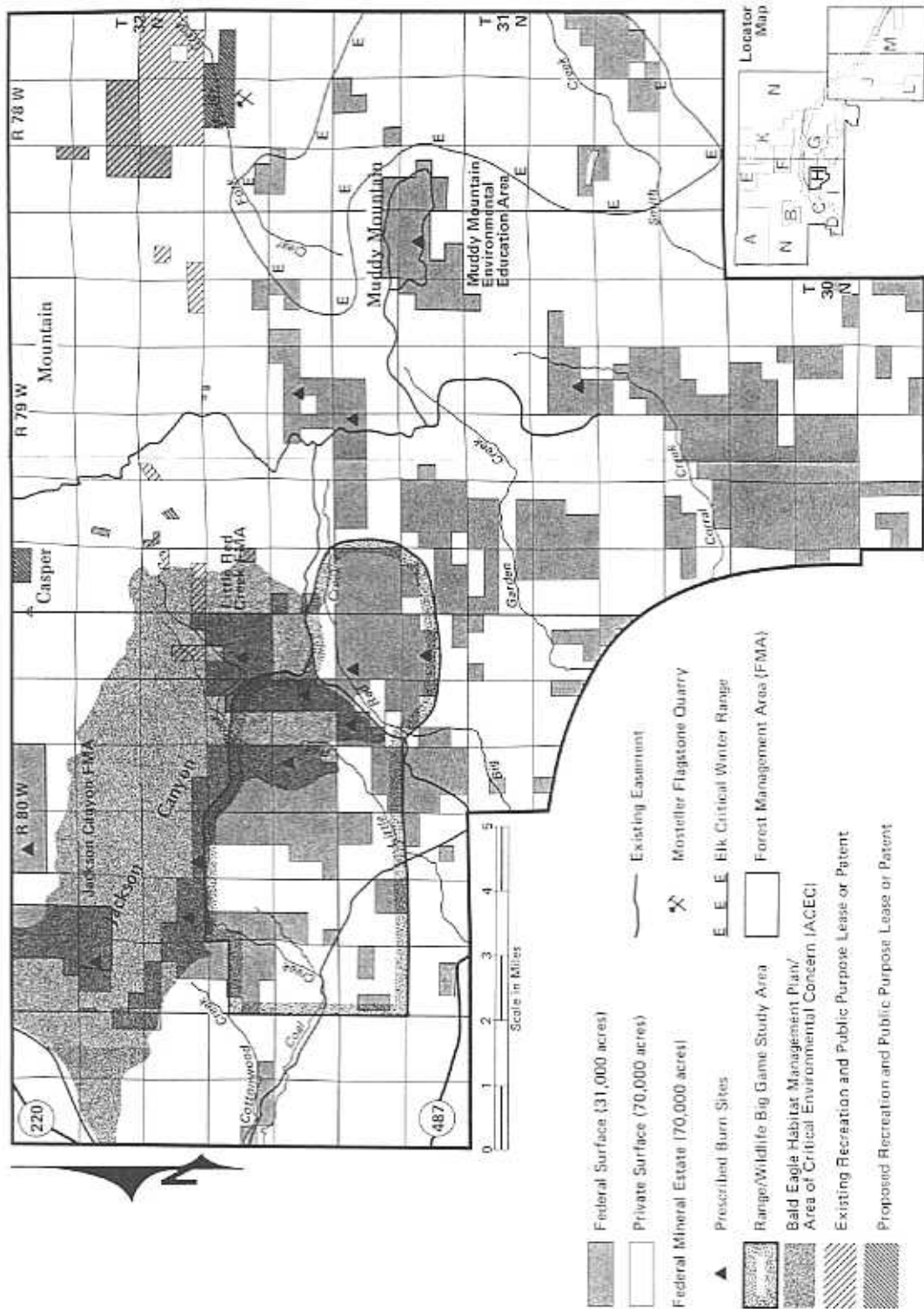
On Muddy Mountain, we will manage the forest resources to reduce mountain pine beetle incidence. We will produce 200 MBF per year in fuelwood and posts and poles by cutting beetle trees and by thinning approximately 400 acres over a three to five year period. In addition, we will thin about 75 acres of seedling-sapling stage stands.

Grazing Management

This area contains all or part of three "I" allotments and four "M" allotments. We will conduct special studies on two "I" allotments, Cheney and Schmitt, to determine livestock-deer conflicts in critical winter ranges and the effects of grazing on water quality in Red Creek and Little Red Creek.

Lands

Approximately 1,300 acres are identified for disposal in this RMU. None of this land is on Muddy Mountain. Four parcels containing 490 acres on Casper Mountain will be reserved for disposal only under the R&PP Act. Thirteen existing R&PP leases and patents on Casper Mountain will continue to be used for public recreation.



Map H Casper, Muddy Mountain, and Jackson Canyon Resource Management Unit

Management Prescriptions

Exchanges will be pursued for acquisition of private land in Jackson Canyon and on Muddy Mountain. Primary emphasis for exchanges will be adjacent to the Muddy Mountain EEA and critical habitat in and around the eagle roost. Of the remaining 810 acres identified for disposal, two small parcels, one 5 acres and the other 2½ acres, will be disposed of by sale or other appropriate means; the remainder will be disposed of by exchange or to meet important public purpose needs. When exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

An existing C&MU Act classification on the Muddy Mountain EEA will be converted to a withdrawal covering 1,175.94 acres. A new withdrawal will be considered to protect approximately 3,500 acres within the Jackson Canyon ACEC.

No rights-of-way will be allowed in the Muddy Mountain elk winter range or the Jackson Canyon ACEC.

Acquisition of one access easement will be pursued on the Corral Creek Road to enhance public recreation opportunities.

Recreation

Muddy Mountain was designated a special recreation management area, and a Muddy Mountain RAMP was completed and implemented on May 10, 1977. The plan provides detailed planning with specific objectives for use by visitors, resource protection, and recreational opportunities consistent with public demand.

Recreation use on the 12,000 acres of public land in this RMU will be managed intensively.

The Muddy Mountain EEA (1,200 acres) contains a 675-acre natural area. Existing facilities are two designated campgrounds, Lodgepole and Rim; two nature trails, Beaver Trail and Forest Ecology Trail; one interpretive ramada; two water wells; two vault latrines; one access road; several picnic tables; and two trailhead parking areas. Improvements to be added are 15 miles of marked snowmobile trails, a day use area, a group camping area, one vault latrine, picnic tables, and trash cans.

ORV travel on Muddy Mountain Recreation Area (11,370 acres) will be limited to designated roads and vehicle routes. A total of 630 acres of the EEA will be closed to ORV travel (including snowmobile use) year-round. ORV travel in the

Jackson Canyon area of the unit will be limited to designated roads and vehicle routes on 3,890 acres.

Recreation management for the remaining public lands in this RMU is considered extensive. Dispersed recreation will be encouraged, and visitors will have freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint. Recreation management and maintenance will emphasize monitoring, use supervision, and enforcement to prevent user conflicts and provide resource protection.

Projects to be completed as specified in the Muddy Mountain RAMP are as follows:

- Acquisition of easements for 3 miles of roads, ½ mile for walking, 2½ miles for cross-country ski trails, and 6 miles for snowmobile trails.

- Hiring of a seasonal ranger each summer and fall for enforcement and public information.

- Rehabilitation of old roads and other disturbed areas.

- Timber thinning in high fire danger and overstocked areas.

- Pursuit of exchanges for lands containing critical winter range for elk and lands adjacent to the EEA.

- Construction of 8½ miles of fence around the EEA (40 inch, 4-strand barbed wire).

- Designation of cross-country skiing areas (snowmobile closures).

- Continuation of the post and pole sale program in designated area.

Soil, Water, and Air

No intensive management will be required for soil, water, and air in this RMU. The Little Red Creek and Red Creek will be included in the Bates Hole Watershed Plan.

Wildlife

We will complete the Jackson Canyon ACEC/HMP, control pine beetle infestations through a more active forest management program, initiate priority full suppression in bald eagle roost areas, and incorporate fire suppression as part of the HMP. We also will install signs and define road closures.

We will monitor deer and elk use of areas in relation to browse conditions to identify any conflicts. Such studies will be coordinated with the WGFD.

Management Prescriptions

RMU 9: Bates Hole.

The Bates Hole RMU (RMU 9) comprises 109,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface, 133,000 acres of state and private lands, and 216,000 acres of federal mineral estate. The principal resource values are grazing, wildlife, soils, and watershed. Other values are found in minerals and recreation. Resource management will focus on a well-coordinated approach among grazing, wildlife, and soils and watershed so that proper rangeland management will be addressed holistically.

This RMU contains nine "I" allotments and nine "M" allotments. Proper use and condition of vegetation to support livestock, antelope and deer, and related watershed concerns will be analyzed. Wildlife management will focus on aspects of wildlife for Bates Creek and Kerfoot Creek, Bolton Creek, and Stinking Creek.

The Bates Hole watershed management plan will focus on sensitive watershed concerns. We will continue to gather data at existing stream monitoring stations. Fire suppression zones will be established. Prescribed burning plans will be developed as a tool for grazing management on ten allotments.

Cultural Resources

Management of cultural resources in this unit will be at a relatively low level of intensity with activity tied to inventory and mitigation if needed. Proposed actions will be reviewed for impacts on cultural resources, and cultural inventories will be conducted when necessary.

Energy and Minerals

The intensity of energy and mineral management will be relatively low for this unit. There are mining claims scattered across 130 sections. The claims are primarily for uranium, bentonite, and silica sand. There are no large active mining operations in the RMU, although some large uranium mines operate in Carbon County, to the south. Moss rock and flagstone are present in small amounts, but demand for material of this type is low. Gravel exists in the area, but demand is low. Two free-use permits have been issued to the Wyoming Highway Department.

Locatable and salable minerals will not require any special management actions. Sales and permits will be handled case by case.

Potential for oil and gas development in this unit ranges from moderate to high. This unit contains several old fields.

Development on this unit is subject to a seasonal restriction from November 15 to April 30 for the protection of critical winter range for antelope and deer. The restriction also protects sensitive watersheds during the time when they are most susceptible to erosion. The unit is also subject to other decisions that constrain surface development, as described in the "Planning Decisions" section of this document.

Fire Management

Fire management is a critical support program in this RMU. Priority full suppression zones will be delineated for protection of existing facilities for oil and gas on 700 acres. Adjoining private land values will require management of 6,400 acres of scattered BLM parcels for full fire suppression. A limited suppression zone encompassing approximately 100,000 acres of BLM-administered surface will be recommended. Buffer zones ¼ mile wide will be established between areas of priority suppression and limited suppression. Full suppression will be practiced in these areas (approximately 1,800 acres).

As part of the limited suppression planning and implementation, owners of intermingled parcels of land within limited suppression zones will be contacted for their approval of incorporation of private lands of similar low value into the limited suppression plan. This will involve 17 cooperative agreements.

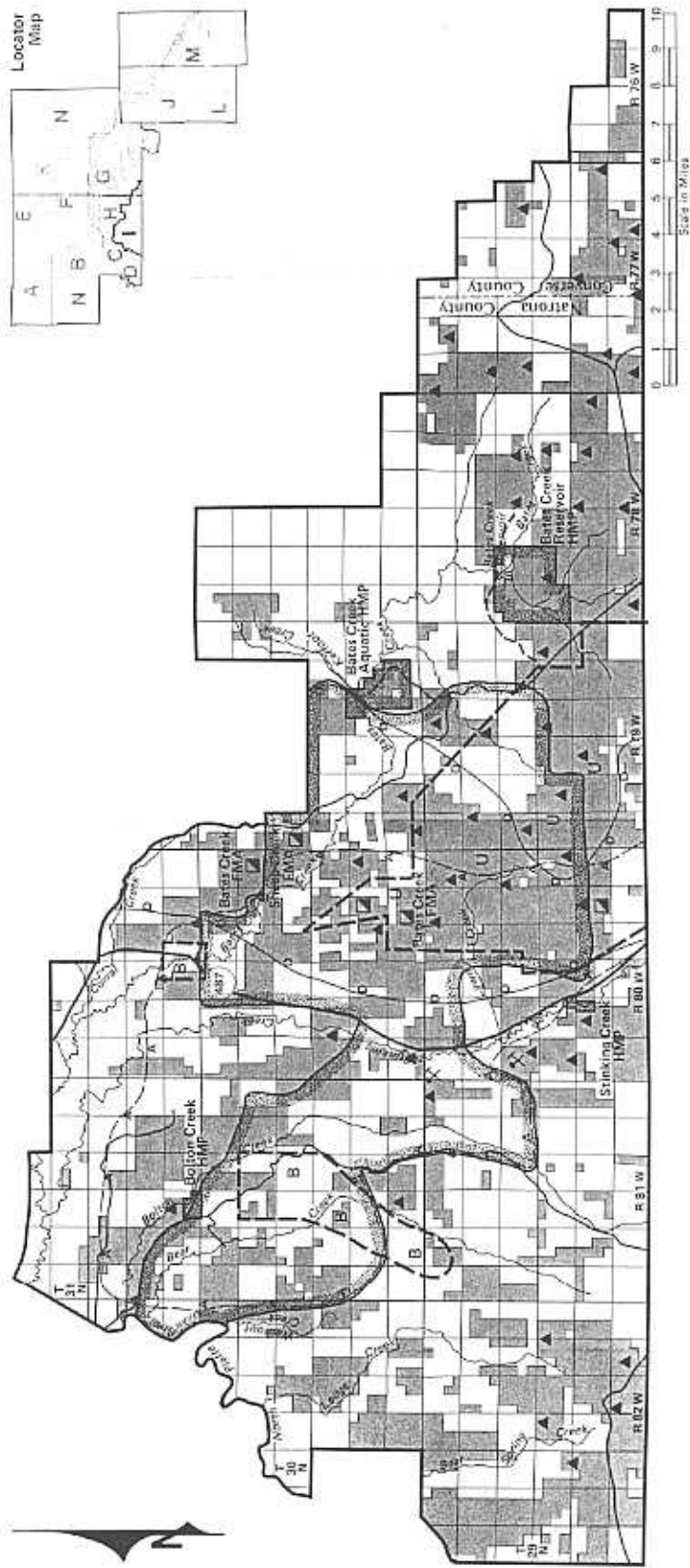
In addition to the 1,600 acres proposed for prescribed burning under current planning, prescribed burning will be implemented on approximately 7,000 acres in ten grazing allotments and one stock driveway.

Forest Management

This unit contains scattered ponderosa pine or mixed ponderosa pine and juniper. It is tentatively classified as nonproductive forestland. Little or no forest management action is planned. Bates Creek and Sheep Creek areas will be reviewed for fuelwood potential.

Grazing Management

The unit contains nine "I" and nine "M" category allotments. Grazing management will focus on conflicts between livestock and antelope or deer



- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Federal Surface (109,000 acres) | Prescribed Burn Site | Area of Extensive Bentonite Mining Claims | Forest Management Area (FMA) |
| Private Surface (133,000 acres) | Free Use Permit for Sand and Gravel | Area of Extensive Uranium Mining Claims | |
| Federal Mineral Estate (216,000 acres) | Antelope Critical Winter Range | Proposed Easement | |
| Range/Wildlife Bio Game Study Area | Deer Critical Winter Range | Habitat Management Plan (HMP) | |

Map 1 Bates Hole Resource Management Unit

Management Prescriptions

in critical winter ranges. Water quality will be studied intensively. Allotments affected in the first five years will be Bentley, Garrett Ranch, Marton Brothers, Miles Land and Livestock, and Steinle. After the first five years, the studies will be dropped if no conflict is evident, or they will be expanded to include both Body ranches, Bates Creek Cattle Company, Schnoor, Cheney, Martin-Haygood, and Milne.

Lands

Approximately 2,040 acres of public lands have been identified for disposal in this RMU. Except for two parcels totaling 120 acres, this land will be disposed of by exchange or for public purpose needs. However, when exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU. The two parcels totaling 120 acres are included in a pending application under the Desert Land Entry Act. The application was filed before the RMP was initiated; therefore, it will be considered on its own merits and will not be denied on the basis of this planning decision.

Acquisition of two easements will be pursued for public access to the Bates Creek Reservoir and to Kerfoot Creek. The Kerfoot Creek easement will be for foot traffic only so that the area will be available for public use but the resources along the creek (including wetland/riparian values) will not be jeopardized.

Recreation Management

No major recreation actions are planned in this unit. It will be managed as an extensive recreation management area where dispersed recreation will be encouraged. Visitors will have freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint, except that ORV use will be limited to existing roads and vehicle routes on all public lands. Recreation management will emphasize monitoring, use supervision, and enforcement to resolve user conflicts and provide resource protection.

Soil, Water, and Air

The Bates Hole Management Plan will be developed on the basis of data obtained through a special study.

This RMU contains the following sensitive

drainages: Washout Creek, Ledge Creek, Bear Creek, Bolton Creek, Stinking Creek, Upper Bates Creek, Red Creek, Little Red Creek, and Corral Creek.

On the basis of cost-benefit analysis, the management plan may prescribe watershed manipulation, livestock manipulation, and construction of water spreaders and detention and retention structures.

Intermediate and long-term stream monitoring will continue on Bates Creek, Stinking Creek, Lawn Creek, Upper Bates Creek, Corral Creek, Bolton Creek, Ledge Creek, Washout Creek, Bear Creek, Red Creek, and Little Red Creek.

Wildlife

Management actions for wildlife are closely related to grazing and watershed concerns. In this unit, we will focus on habitat management planning and subsequent on-the-ground actions supportive of other resource program objectives. The following HMP planning and action will be required within the unit.

For Bates Creek Reservoir HMP, we will pursue acquisition of an easement of 3 miles, conduct prescribed burns of sagebrush, and monitor sage grouse strutting and winter use. We also will construct islands and monitor waterfowl use. For the Bates Creek Aquatic HMP, we will fence portions of the stream to exclude livestock, obtain a walk-in easement ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile), and establish a primitive parking area and fence it to restrict vehicle traffic. We will also monitor fishing pressure and cooperate with Wyoming Game and Fish Department for stocking fish or stream improvement.

For the Bolton Creek Aquatic HMP, we will monitor stream improvement and wildlife use in a recently constructed enclosure. For the Stinking Creek Aquatic HMP, we will construct an enclosure fence for monitoring purposes. The WGFD manages wildlife populations (including beaver), and the BLM manages wildlife habitat on BLM-administered public lands in cooperation with WGFD. Management of beaver populations to raise the water table is proposed for the Bolton Creek Aquatic HMP, and transplantation and management of beaver populations is proposed for the Stinking Creek Aquatic HMP.

Throughout the unit, springs and seeps will be developed where needed to support wildlife, and fencing will be done according to specifications in critical antelope areas and riparian areas.

Management Prescriptions

RMU 10: Laramie Range Foothills.

The Laramie Range Foothills RMU (RMU 10) comprises 15,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface, 206,000 acres of state and private land, and 107,000 acres of federal mineral estate. The primary resource values are forestry, recreation, and wildlife.

There is good potential for additional hunting and fishing opportunities in the unit if access could be acquired on any of five areas—Deer Creek, Wagonhound Gorge, LaPrele Creek, School Section Mountain, and Cottonwood Creek. Wildlife management will be limited because of surface ownership, but there is potential for limited management of elk and deer ranges and fisheries through cooperative agreements with landowners, the WGFD, and the Forest Service. All program actions in this unit will emphasize coordination with the Forest Service where adjacent land ownership and cooperative use objectives are present. Fire management and soil and water management will provide important support to other programs.

Cultural Resources

The potential for prehistoric sites in this unit is moderate to high, and there is moderate potential for historic sites such as stagecoach routes, trails, and homesites.

We will apply cultural survey requirements and necessary stipulations before approving projects so that identification of prehistoric and historic resources is ensured. These sites will be evaluated for significance under National Register criteria (36 CFR 60.4), and potential impacts will be assessed according to criteria of effects (36 CFR 800.3). Mitigation will be carried out as necessary.

Energy and Minerals

There is a potential for gravel extraction along Cottonwood Creek and Sand Draw. Limestone for construction aggregate could possibly be developed in the next ten years. Development for gravel and limestone will be permitted case by case if its acceptability is indicated by environmental assessment.

Most of this unit is considered to have moderate potential for oil and gas development. Some of the lower elevation areas have high potential. Leasing in this area occurred for the first time in 1982. To date, there has been little exploration and no development.

Development in this unit is subject to a seasonal restriction from November 15 to April 30 during periods of heavy snowfall and spring rain and for the protection of critical deer and elk winter range.

This unit is subject to a surface disturbance restriction on slopes of 25% or greater. Much of this unit has slopes in excess of 25%.

Fire Management

Priority full suppression zones will be delineated for forestry and wildlife resources on 7,750 acres. All other BLM acreage will be managed for full fire suppression.

Cooperative agreements on exchange of fire suppression responsibilities between the Forest Service and Converse County are in operation. An agreement with Platte County will be sought.

The BLM has responsibility for fire suppression on all federal lands west of the Old Fort Fetterman Road in Converse County; the Forest Service's Laramie Peak Ranger District has suppression responsibility on federal lands east of that road to Interstate 25 in Platte County.

Limited suppression may be considered for portions of this RMU in extremely rough terrain. Close coordination with the agencies listed above would be sought during the planning and implementation phases of a fire management plan in this RMU.

Forest Management

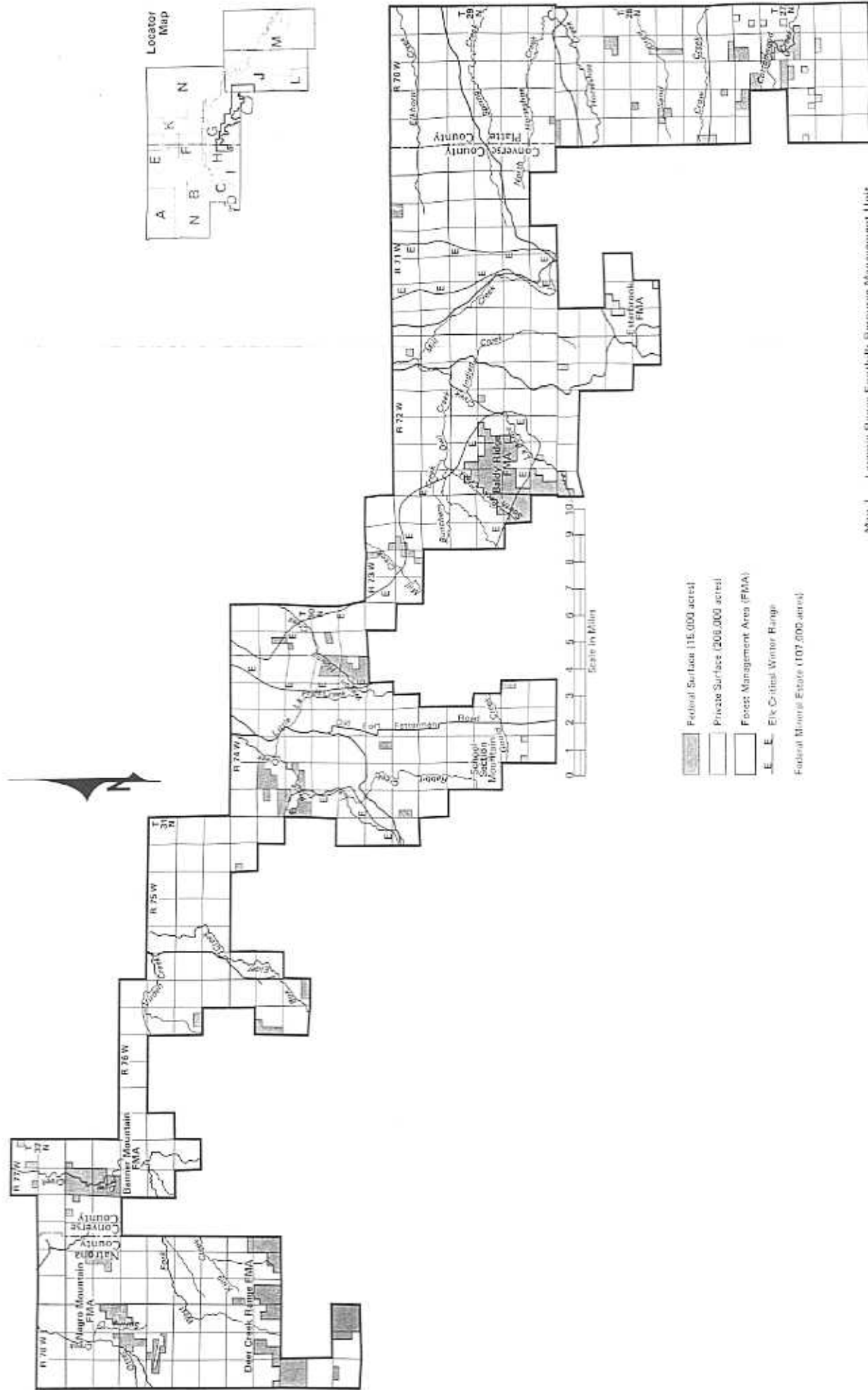
Priority for forestry will be in the Deer Creek range. Management actions will be as follows.

For Deer Creek Range, we will develop a timber management plan, harvest 175 acres per year, and cut 500 mbf annually for three to four years beginning in 1987. We will obtain 9½ miles of temporary easements and construct 1½ miles of new road. We also will determine whether the Forest Service wants to operate a joint fuelwood sales area.

For Negro Hill, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance in the area, collect data, and determine if a timber management plan is required. We will harvest at least 500 mbf annually beginning in 1991.

For Baldy Ridge, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance of the area, collect data, and determine if the area can be successfully managed.

For Esterbrook, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance of the area, collect data, and determine the resource potential.



Management Prescriptions

For Banner Mountain, we will evaluate the available inventory data, then conduct a reconnaissance of the area to determine if the topography will permit any harvest of timber products.

Grazing Management

All grazing allotments within this unit have been placed in the "C" (custodial) category. Grazing management will be minimal throughout the unit.

Lands

Approximately 3,200 acres have been identified for disposal in this RMU. Disposals will be carried out by exchange or for public purpose needs. However, when exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

Easements or cooperative access agreements may be acquired to initiate the forestry program in the Deer Creek area and other areas within this unit.

Recreation Management

This unit will be managed as an extensive recreation management area where dispersed recreation will be encouraged and where visitors will have freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint. The exception is that ORV use will be limited to existing roads and vehicle routes on all public lands in the unit.

Recreation management and maintenance will emphasize monitoring, use supervision, and enforcement to resolve user conflicts where necessary. Access to isolated tracts of BLM land will be sought only if public demand warrants such actions. Cooperative landowner agreements will be sought to provide seasonal recreational use of BLM lands.

Soil, Water, and Air

Because public land is limited in this unit, actions will be taken as needed to support other programs such as forestry and recreation. Protection of resources will come from the application of land use decisions as described in the "Planning Decisions" section when on-the-ground actions are proposed.

Wildlife

We will monitor use on elk ranges, particularly the Baldy Ridge area, and consider studies and cooperative work with the Forest Service and the WGFD for deer winter ranges. We also will work cooperatively with the WGFD for fisheries enhancement.

RMU 11: Ross

The Ross RMU (RMU 11) comprises 24,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface, 411,000 acres of state and private lands, and 316,000 acres of federal mineral estate. Important resource values are cultural resources, minerals, and wildlife. Lands and fire management are important support program components.

Cultural resource management will focus on the historic Bozeman Trail and several stage stations along its route. The trail segments will be protected from surface development. Extensive claims for uranium exist. Wildlife management will center on monitoring and protection of sage grouse strutting areas. Land disposals and rights-of-way will be permitted so long as cultural values are not jeopardized.

Cultural Resources

Management of cultural resources will protect segments of the Bozeman Trail. Tracts containing trail segments will be protected through ORV closures and prohibition of surface development. The trail segments to be protected from surface disturbance are Holdup Hollow (40 acres), Stinking Water Gulch (670 acres), and Spring Draw (320 acres). These segments are currently being nominated to the National Register. Legal descriptions of the Bozeman Trail segments are included in the "Planning Decisions" section.

Energy and Minerals

About 30,000 acres containing about 555 million tons of federal coal will be available for consideration for future leasing or for exchanges. All preference right lease applications (PRLAs) will be processed. The unit contains the Sand Draw PRLA (Peabody), the Stevens North and Stevens South PRLAs (Western Fuels), and the Southern Powder River PRLA (CDT). Coal leases and PRLAs are shown on map 6 in volume 2 of the RMP/EIS.

Management Prescriptions

The Thunder Basin National Grassland, which is adjacent to this unit, contains about 164,000 acres with about 11 billion tons of federal coal that is acceptable for coal development and would be available for further leasing consideration. Federal coal land inside the TBNG boundary that may be included in future coal leasing will be subject to the stipulations and mitigation defined in the Medicine Bow Forest Management Plan, which includes the TBNG (USDA, FS 1984). All PRLAs within the TBNG will be processed in accordance with the final forest plan, the EAs that the Forest Service prepared for the PRLAs, and the EA decision record prepared by the BLM.

There are approximately 8,000 mining claims for uranium scattered across 339 sections. The Bill Smith Uranium Mine and the Southern Powder River Basin Uranium mill are shut down. Any increase in the demand for uranium probably would trigger mining activity in this area.

This unit is considered to have high potential for oil and gas development. Most, if not all, of the unit has been leased for oil and gas, and portions have been heavily developed within the past 15 years. Development proposals for this unit are subject to land use decisions identified in the "Planning Decisions" section.

Fire Management

Prescribed burning will be applied on six sites after completion of an EA and fire plan.

Grazing Management

All grazing allotments in this unit are in the "C" category. Grazing management will be minimal throughout the unit.

Lands

Approximately 9,240 acres of public lands in this unit are identified for disposal by exchange or for public purpose needs. However, when exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

No rights-of-way will be allowed on Pine Ridge.

Soil, Water, and Air

The level of soil, water, and air management for this unit will be low except for application of

resource protection stipulations on historic segments. Decisions that constrain development may be implemented case by case in the rest of the unit.

Wildlife

Wildlife management will stress continued monitoring of sage grouse strutting grounds and case-by-case implementation of stipulations on rights-of-way and proposed mineral activity to protect important habitat. We will continue to check prairie dog towns for ferrets and burrowing owls, since this RMU has high potential for these species.

RMU 12: Muleshoe Flats-Richeau Hills

The Muleshoe Flats-Richeau Hills RMU (RMU 12) comprises 52,000 acres of BLM-administered public surface, 183,000 acres of state and private land, and 180,000 acres of federal mineral estate. While ownership in this unit is highly fragmented, the unit has values and management potential for grazing, wildlife, and lands. Grazing use will be monitored in Muleshoe Flats for proper stocking. Range readiness studies will be conducted to determine proper seasons of use. We will evaluate critical elk, bighorn sheep, and deer winter ranges. Lands actions will be related chiefly to disposal.

Cultural Resources

Management of cultural resources will consist of inventory and mitigation of proposed surface-disturbing activities.

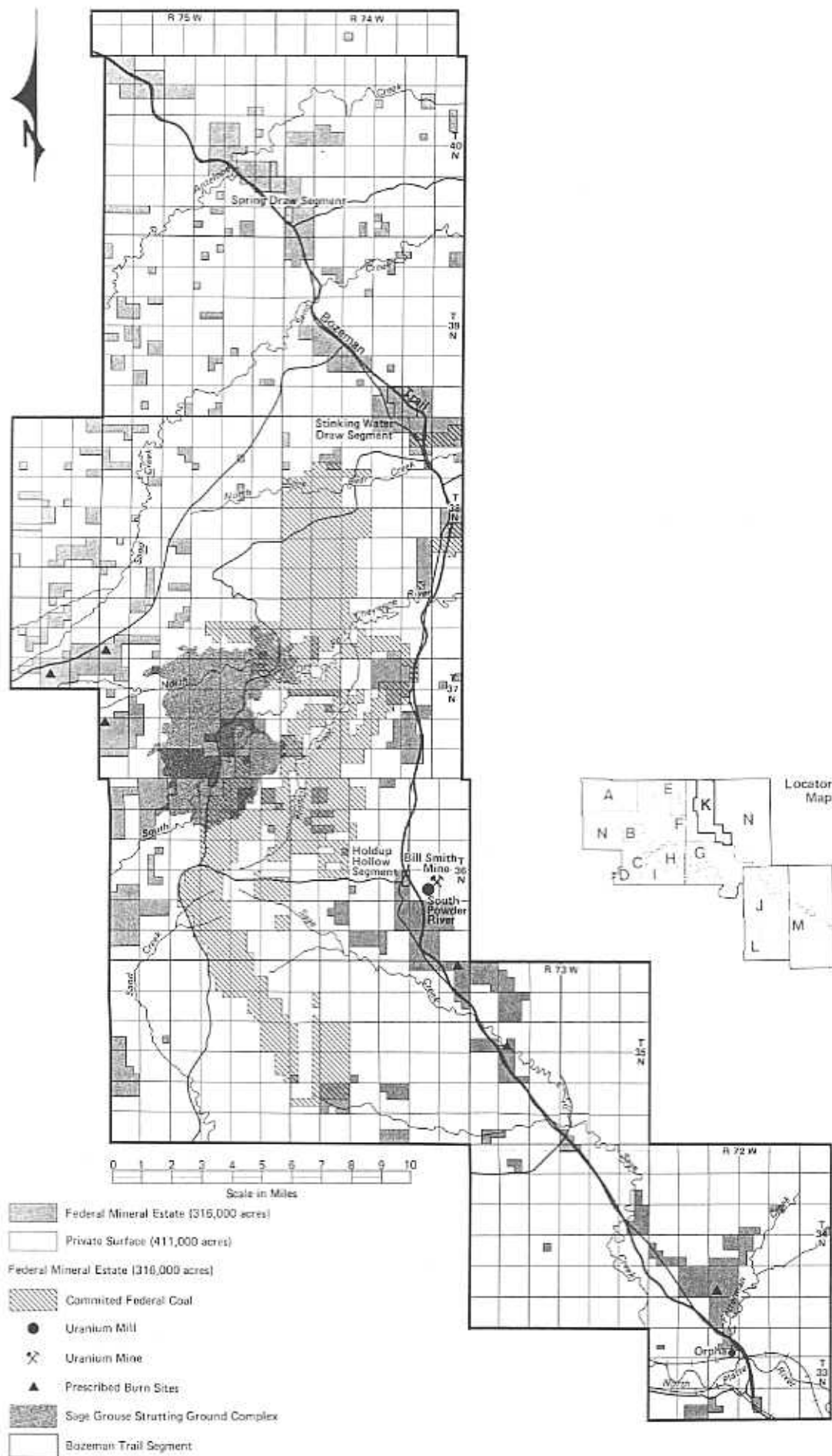
Energy and Minerals

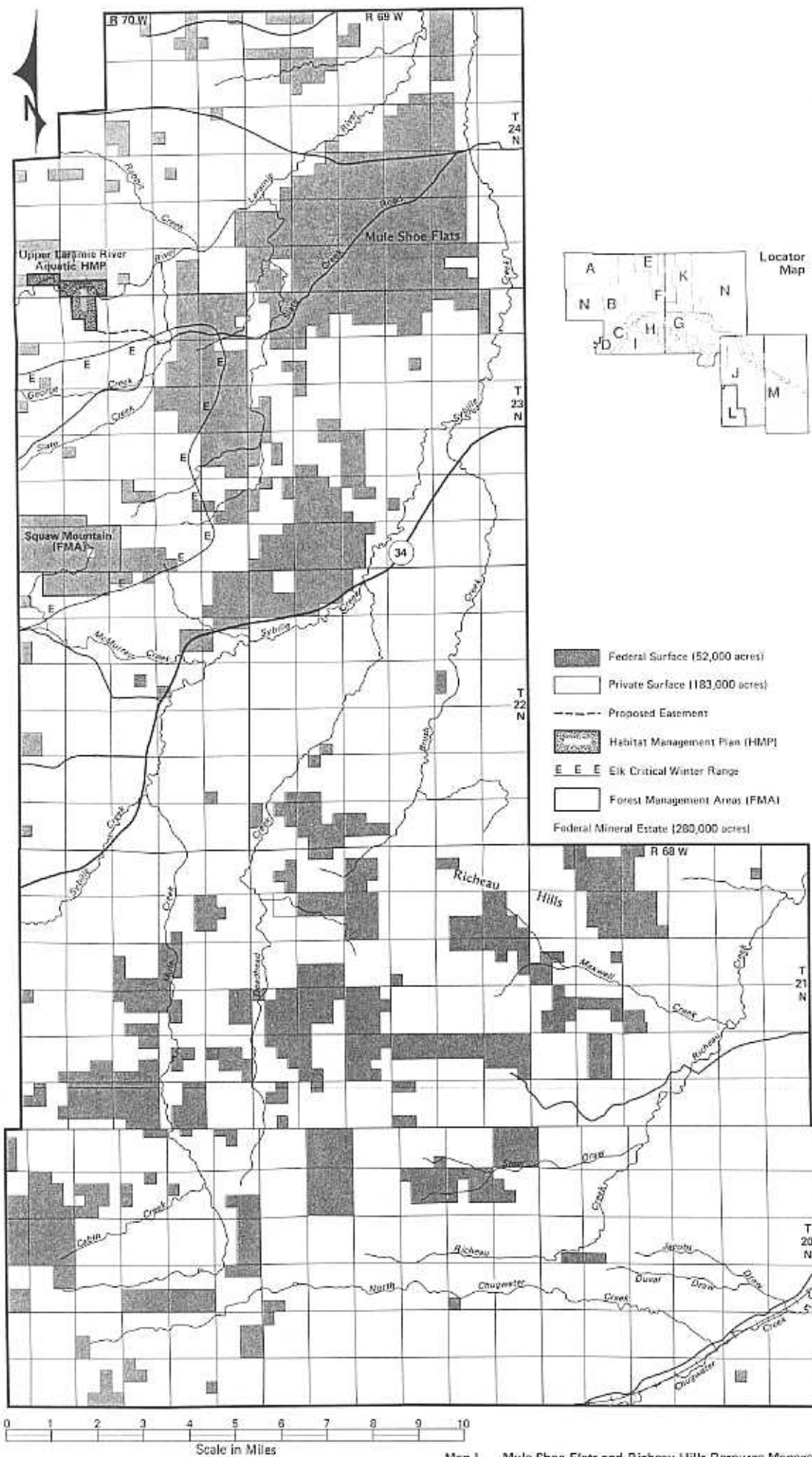
Mining claims are scattered across 16 sections.

Potential for oil and gas development in this unit is considered to be moderate. Much of this unit is under lease, but to date there has been no exploration or development.

Critical elk winter range in this unit is protected by a seasonal restriction from November 15 to April 30. The Laramie River is protected by a buffer zone of 500 feet on either side.

Slopes on much of the unit exceed 25% except in Muleshoe Flat. Surface development in those areas is prohibited except when the restriction is waived. All other land use decisions identified in the "Planning Decisions" section will apply where appropriate.





Map L Mule Shoe Flats and Richeau Hills Resource Management Unit

Management Prescriptions

Fire Management

No priority full suppression zones will be established in this RMU. Scattered parcels covering 34,000 acres will be retained in full suppression, and cooperative fire suppression agreements will be pursued with Platte County. The Laramie Peak Ranger District of the Medicine Bow National Forest and the BLM have entered into an agreement on fire suppression. Pursuant to this agreement, the Forest Service will have suppression responsibility north of Slate Creek Road and the BLM will have responsibility south of the road.

Limited fire suppression will be recommended for approximately 17,920 acres.

Cooperative agreements with 18 owners of adjoining property will be pursued so that intermingled lands could be included in the limited suppression plan.

Forest Management

Low level forest management will be planned for this unit. Only one area, Squaw Mountain, has timber potential. No forest management action will be taken in this area except in conjunction with wildlife or recreation objectives. We plan to leave the area "as is" for at least the next five years.

Grazing Management

There are two "I" category allotments and three "M" category allotments in this unit. There has been concern about overgrazing on Muleshoe Flats. This area will be monitored for the first five years.

Lands

Approximately 4,960 acres of public land are identified for disposal only by exchange or to meet important public purposes. However, when exchange or public purpose opportunities have been exhausted, these parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to a public request if sale clearly would be in the public interest and would conform to the management objectives for this RMU.

No rights-of-way will be allowed on Squaw Mountain.

Acquisition of one easement will be pursued to provide public access to the Upper Laramie River, but it will be a low priority at this time. Acquisition of this easement, if initiated, will be completed in accordance with an HMP.

Recreation Management

This unit will be managed as an extensive recreation management area where dispersed recreation is encouraged and where visitors will have freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint. ORV use will be limited to existing roads and vehicle routes on all public lands. Recreation management will emphasize monitoring and use supervision to resolve user conflicts if necessary.

Soil, Water, and Air

No intensive actions will be implemented in this program except in support of other program needs. Planning decisions will apply to surface development.

Wildlife

Wildlife management will focus on the development of an HMP for the Upper Laramie River. The principal objectives will be improvement of aquatic values. The action items to be considered in the plan will be as follows:

We will pursue acquisition of access (1¼ mile), construct a parking area, and fence it to restrict vehicle traffic. We also will pursue acquisition of a walking easement (¼ mile). (Access acquisition will be a low priority in this area.) We will monitor fishing pressure and cooperate with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to identify the need for stocking fish or stream improvements.

For all the RMU, we will monitor the forage availability and condition of elk, bighorn sheep, and deer ranges. Ferret and burrowing owl searches in prairie dog towns will be conducted as needed.

RMU 13: Rawhide-Table Mountain-Springer/Bump-Sullivan

RMU 13 comprises 2,900 acres of BLM-administered public surface, 183,000 acres of state and private land, and 9,100 acres of federal mineral estate. The three areas of this RMU are separate land units combined into one large RMU to facilitate management. The principal values are wildlife (waterfowl and upland game birds), recreation, and management of grazing.

The location and resources provide a unique opportunity for concentrated cooperation between the BLM and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to manage and enhance these

Management Prescriptions

unique areas. Other programs will support these values. Lands emphasis will be on acquisition and some disposal in areas outside cooperative management units.

Cultural Resources

Management of cultural resources will consist of inventory and mitigation of impacts on cultural resources from proposed surface development.

Energy and Minerals

Minerals activity will be at a low level because BLM ownership is limited and there is little potential for locatable or salable reserves. There is an existing permit in this unit for one thin-bedded limestone (flagstone) quarry. The flagstone is used mainly for riprap for irrigation canals and reservoirs.

The potential for oil and gas development in this unit is considered moderate. No development has occurred in this area to date.

For the protection of wildlife and their habitat, no surface development except wildlife projects will be permitted in the Rawhide, Table Mountain, and Springer/Bump-Sullivan wildlife management units.

Fire Management

Management action for fire suppression is not practical because of this unit's remote location. There is a cooperative agreement on fire suppression with Goshen County.

No priority full suppression zones will be established in this RMU. The fire management practice will continue to be full suppression, as it is now.

Prescribed fire might be used for vegetative conversion or biomass reduction on the Table Mountain unit if recommended by the WGFD.

Grazing Management

This area contains five "M" category allotments. The AMP and grazing systems for the four lessees on the Table Mountain and Springer/Bump-Sullivan wildlife management units will be continued. The priority for management in all of these areas, including the Rawhide unit, will be wildlife and recreation. Decisions on grazing management will be made through consultation with the WGFD.

Lands

Approximately 240 acres are identified for disposal in this unit. With the exception of 220 acres under a pending Desert Land Entry application, this land will be disposed of only by exchange or for public purpose needs. The DLE application was filed before the plan was initiated, and it will be considered on its own merits rather than being denied on the basis of this planning decision.

The Rawhide parcel is one of the ten riverfront parcels. It can be disposed of only under the R&PP Act. Special emphasis will be placed on development and management of this area in concert with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's developments on adjoining lands. One exchange will be pursued to acquire 20 acres of private land adjacent to the Table Mountain Wildlife Unit.

The existing C&MU Act classification will be converted to a withdrawal from mining operations on 2,329.62 acres at Table Mountain and Springer/Bump-Sullivan units.

Recreation Management

Recreation use in these three wildlife management units is intensively managed through a cooperative effort between the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the BLM. There is a draft HMP for Table Mountain that provides special recreation management for hunting and fishing. Travel is restricted only during waterfowl hunting and nesting seasons.

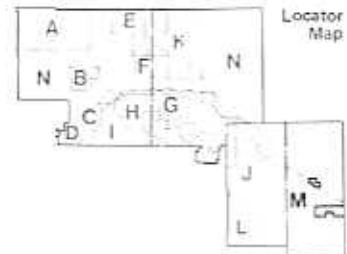
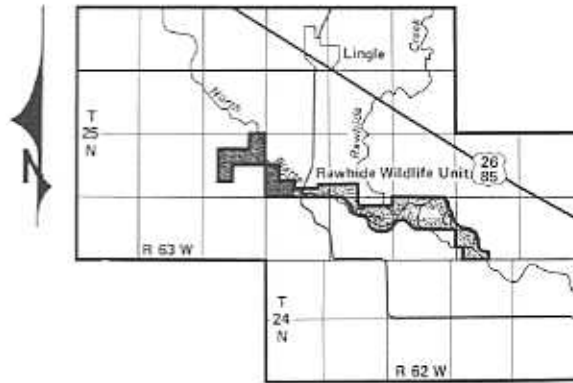
Springer/Bump-Sullivan Wildlife Management Unit is managed intensively for recreation under joint management as described above. Hunting and fishing are the primary activities. Travel is restricted only during waterfowl hunting and nesting seasons.

An HMP will be prepared to provide management guidelines for the Rawhide Wildlife Management Unit. Public land will be added to the unit, and management will be similar to existing management provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Hunting, fishing, and a landing/launching area on the North Platte River will be the primary recreation opportunities.

Soil, Water, and Air

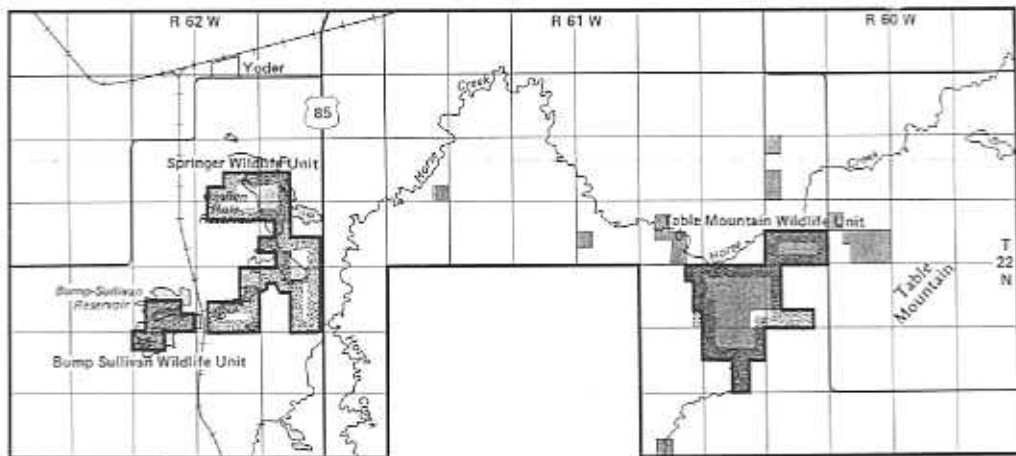
No significant management actions for soil, water, and air are anticipated except in support of wildlife programs. Planning decisions will be applied to activities to protect intensive management areas.

Rawhide



-  Federal Surface (2900 acres)
-  Private Surface (80,000 acres)
-  Wildlife Unit
-  Exchange
-  Federal Mineral Estate (9100 acres)

Table Mountain and Springer-Bump Sullivan



Management Prescriptions

Wildlife

As the principal resource program for this unit, the wildlife program will do the following.

For the Table Mountain Wildlife Unit, we will pursue acquisition of 20 acres through exchange. We will construct islands in reservoirs, construct goose nest structures on islands and on reservoir shores, fence and cultivate shelterbelts, seed native grasses in shelterbelts and in pastures, mow cattails and bulrushes, control noxious weeds, and control muskrats, jackrabbits, and prairie dogs. Vehicle traffic will be restricted during nesting and hunting seasons, and surface development will be prohibited except for wildlife projects. We will monitor duck, goose, and pheasant nesting and recreation use.

For the Springer/Bump-Sullivan Wildlife Unit, we will construct islands in reservoirs, construct goose nest structures on islands and on reservoir shores, fence and cultivate shelterbelts, seed native grasses in shelterbelts and in pastures, mow cattails and bulrushes, control noxious weeds, and control muskrats, jackrabbits, and prairie dogs. Vehicle traffic will be restricted during waterfowl nesting and hunting seasons, and surface development will be prohibited except for wildlife projects. We will monitor duck, goose, and pheasant nesting and recreation use.

For the Rawhide Wildlife Unit, we will consider construction of islands in reservoirs and goose nest structures on islands and on reservoir shores. We also may plant, fence, and cultivate shelterbelts, seed native grasses in shelterbelts and in pastures, mow cattails and bulrushes, control noxious weeds, and control muskrats, jackrabbits, and prairie dogs.

RMU 14: Remaining Platte River Resource Area

RMU 14 comprises all lands in the PRRA not included in the other 13 RMUs. It was established to provide a detailed accounting of grazing management, since most allotment boundaries do not coincide with RMU boundaries. There are unitwide resource values and program management needs for all multiple resources that cannot be confined to units. Prescriptions for this RMU address specific management needs and the general areawide program. All programs are addressed where values and needs exist.

Cultural Resources

In addition to specific sites identified in other RMU prescriptions, seven sites would be protected from surface occupancy or disturbance: Rawhide Buttes Stage Station, Chug Springs Stage Station, Elkhorn Stage Station, Chimney Rock Station, Rawhide Buttes Mining District, 48 NA 227, and Spanish Diggings (48PL48).

A goal for this unit and for the PRRA as a whole will be to establish a cultural data base. Program management will be based on resource needs.

Energy and Minerals

Mining claims are scattered throughout much of the unit. There are many bentonite and uranium claims in Natrona County and Converse County. Other claims exist for gold, jade, copper, and iron. Assessment work is done annually. Material such as sand and gravel, bentonite, aggregate limestone, moss rock, and flagstone are available throughout the unit, and use is being made of these materials. Most public demand will be met through existing pits. New sale sites will be established on public demand.

There is high potential for oil and gas development in the part of the unit lying roughly north of U.S. Highway 20 from Lost Springs to Orin Junction, north of Interstate 25 from Orin Junction to Casper, and northwest of Wyoming 220 from Casper to the resource area boundary. The exception is the Rattlesnake Mountains, where the oil and gas potential is low. Within the area described, there are numerous fields that produce large quantities of oil or gas, or both. Most of the fields in Converse County have been developed within the past 15 years. New high-producing fields are still being discovered. Most fields in the high potential area of Natrona County are considerably older than those in Converse County. Because of their age, they produce smaller quantities of oil or gas per well. The rest of the RMU has low to moderate oil and gas potential.

We will authorize exploration and development in accordance with lease provisions. Lease constraints and development will be subject to land use decisions described in the "Planning Decisions" section.

Fire Management

On the basis of all previous RMU prescriptions, a total of 778,235 acres of BLM surface will be

Management Prescriptions

designated as either priority suppression (67,520 acres), full suppression (194,315 acres) or limited suppression (516,600 acres). That leaves approximately 621,218 acres of BLM surface for consideration in this RMU. Of the 621,218 acres, 16,640 acres will be placed in priority suppression, 348,160 acres in limited suppression, and 256,418 acres will be managed under full suppression. An estimated total of 10,450 acres of this RMU will be addressed in the prescribed fire plan. This brings the total potential burn treatment area for the PRRA to about 27,000 acres (see table 1 in the "Planning Decisions" section).

We will seek approximately 24 cooperative agreements with owners of adjacent land for inclusion of intermingled ownership lands in the limited suppression plan. This means that there will be an estimated total of 105 cooperative agreements in the PRRA when the limited suppression plan is fully implemented.

Fire management for the entire resource area will incorporate a priority suppression plan, a limited suppression plan, and a prescribed fire plan, as well as the normal fire year plan and the fire suppression constraints required by wildlife, cultural, and watershed resources.

We will continue cooperative agreements on initial attack for fire suppression with the Forest Service, the Wyoming Division of Forestry, Natrona County, Converse County, and Goshute County. Platte County will be included after establishment of agreements.

Forest Management

Management actions will focus largely on collection of data from which to prescribe forest management. Management potential is affected by marginal forestry base, topography, and distance from communities. We will do the following:

For Hartville-Sunrise, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance of the area, collect data, and assess the resource potential. If there is harvest potential, we will sell on demand only, and the permittee will have to arrange access.

For Pine Mountain, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance of the area, collect data, and assess the resource potential. If there is harvest potential, we will sell on demand only, and the permittee will have to arrange access.

For Salt Canyon, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance of the area, collect data, and assess the resource potential. If there is harvest potential, we will prepare a plan for the sale and obtain temporary access.

For other isolated tracts, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance, collect data, and assess the resource potential. If there is harvest potential, we will sell on demand only, and the permittee will have to arrange access. If no potential is found, these areas will be eliminated from the forest base.

For Rattlesnake Mountain, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance, collect data, and assess the resource potential. If sufficient volume is present to warrant sales, we will sell forest products on demand only.

For Bessemer Mountain, we will conduct a forest reconnaissance, collect data, and determine the management potential.

For Coal Mountain (part of which is in RMU 8 and part of which is in RMU 14), we will conduct a forest reconnaissance of the area, collect data, and determine the resource potential. If there is harvest potential, we will sell forest products on demand.

Grazing Management

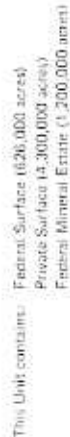
Many grazing allotments are included in two or more RMUs. For this reason, a general discussion for the range program is presented here.

RPS This section and the "Grazing Management" portion of the "Planning Decisions" section contain the rest of the data required for the rangeland program summary (see "G1: Grazing Lease Administration" in that section).

Our overall objective for the grazing management program in the PRRA is to prevent overgrazing and downward trends in all leases and to improve livestock forage conditions in 37 "I" category leases and 15 "M" category leases. This is to be accomplished with no adverse impact to wildlife and watershed values. If two alternatives are available that offer comparable benefits to livestock, the alternative that is most beneficial to wildlife and watershed values will be chosen. Custodial ("C") category allotments will be available for sale or other disposal if all criteria are met.

All lease expiration dates will continue to be February 28, 1990. Existing grazing preference allocations will remain unchanged. Future upward or downward changes may be allocated to livestock, wildlife, watershed, or a combination of these three land uses.

Livestock kinds, seasons, and numbers will continue to be authorized as shown in appendix D of the draft RMP/EIS. Allotment boundaries and base property locations will be recertified for all "I" and "M" allotments.



Management Prescriptions

A base property requirement of 90 days will be established for the entire resource area. An exception will have to be made for existing allotments that have historically had less base property than that necessary to meet a 90-day requirement. For those allotments, future reductions in size or division of the allotment will not be possible unless it can be combined with an adjacent allotment that meets the 90-day requirement.

Preference statements (annual grazing lease applications) will be sent to all lease holders of "I" and "M" category allotments.

"C" category allotments will be leased year-round if no other information is available.

We will prepare intensive livestock management plans (allotment management plans, cooperative management agreements, coordinated management plans) for priority allotments if serious livestock use conflicts are found.

We will continue to operate two AMPs for the Bates Creek and Table Mountain allotments. Livestock grazing management problems will be handled through lease stipulations. All new construction projects will be supported with a plan of development on allotments not having AMPs.

Cooperative management agreements will not be initiated from 1985 through 1989. After 1989, agreements may be made on "I" and "M" category allotments if personnel and funding are available after completion of work in high priority "I" category allotments.

The intensity of use supervision will vary according to allotment category and the level of studies implemented. Use supervision will range from field verification of actual use to field checks of forage utilization. For a more detailed description by allotment, see tables 2 and 3 in the "Planning Decisions" section.

Use supervision on "C" category allotments will be handled as specific problems arise, or on a minimum of ten allotments per year. Supervision will amount to verification of livestock use, estimates of range condition and use, and photographs of public land in the allotment.

Range site mapping will be completed for the slope west and north of Buffalo Creek on the Buffalo Creek and Willow Creek ranches in areas of critical winter range for elk.

Grazing permittees will have to provide actual use data annually for the first five years. Thereafter, the requirement for actual use data may be limited to "I" category allotments.

Forage utilization studies will vary from permanently located transects to an ocular estimate for complete pastures. The studies will be closely tied to use supervision. Permanent trend transects will be located in higher priority "I" category allotments where potential use problems exist. More transects may be installed after the first five years.

Additional rain gauges will be installed. Locations will be coordinated with soils and vegetation benchmark studies.

Range readiness and plant phenology studies will be used in critical spring or early summer pastures, particularly in areas of higher elevation such as the South Big Horns, Muddy Mountain, Deer Creek range, and Rattlesnake range.

We will conduct special studies in selected high erosion areas and areas of potential conflict between livestock and big game. These studies will be expanded at the end of five years if problems are found.

We will conduct intensive studies on trend, wildlife, watershed, range site mapping, or high use supervision for some high priority "I" allotments. Ranchers will be contacted for project work or if problems are found through use supervision.

Funds generally will be allocated first to project developments in "I" category allotments, second to "M" allotments, and last to "C" allotments. Allotment-wide projects will take precedence over single, isolated projects.

Grazing fee funds or range betterment funds will not be used to build or maintain fences to exclude livestock grazing to the benefit of other activities. Examples of such projects are fences around reservoirs, riparian areas, and recreation sites.

Stock driveway fences will be maintained jointly by the BLM and the adjoining grazing lessee. The BLM will provide materials and the lessee will provide labor.

Water developments normally will be constructed by the BLM and maintained by the user. The BLM will provide most of the funds for drilling and casing wells, with the rancher supplying all down hole and above-ground equipment.

BLM funding of major reconstruction projects will be determined case by case.

RPS The following section summarizes the planned accomplishments of grazing management actions planned for the life of the RMP (1985 through 1995). Any additions or changes will be described in RPS updates.

Management Prescriptions

Authorized annual BLM grazing use: 203,704 AUMs

Annual BLM allotment use supervision/inspections: 37 on "I" allotments, 57 on "M" allotments, and 10 on "C" allotments

Total number of BLM allotments to be monitored: 21 "I" allotments and 1 "M" allotment

Total number of AMPs to be developed: none

Total number of AMPs to be maintained: 2

Estimate of new range projects over ten years: 15 springs, 24 reservoirs, 5 wells, 4,125 acres of brush control, and 18 miles of fencing

Annual noxious weed control: 2 contracts

Prairie dog control: unknown

Lands

Approximately 79,700 acres of public land are identified for disposal in this unit. No limitation is placed on the type of disposal. Seven areas containing 1,418.88 acres are identified for disposal only under the R&PP Act. These are Natrona County School Site (40 acres), Torrington Area (120 acres), Glendo Reservoir (91.80 acres), Gray Rocks Reservoir (278 acres), Casper Area (200 acres), Esterbrook Townsite (15.29 acres), and an area adjacent to the Converse County Park (659.82 acres). Of this total, 200 acres in the Casper area can be disposed of by any means after 1987 if no R&PP lease or patent is issued by that time.

Six R&PP leases and patents are present in this unit and will continue to be developed for and used by the public. Exchanges will be pursued in the Rattlesnake Range, and other exchanges may be proposed by interested parties. An active sale program will be undertaken for these disposal lands. A disposal plan will be prepared for the entire resource area, with primary focus on this unit. Priority of disposal will be established to the extent possible in this plan.

Five corridors are designated in the resource area, all of which are in Natrona County. Major rights-of-way will be confined to these designated corridors whenever possible. When placement of a major facility within a designated corridor is not possible, and for smaller right-of-way facilities, placement will be adjacent to existing facilities or disturbances. Cross-country right-of-way placement will be allowed only when placement in a designated corridor or adjacent to an existing facility is not practical or feasible. New corridors will be designated only when placement as indicated above is not practical and when the environmental impacts can be adequately mitigated. Designated corridor widths and the sizes and types of facilities allowed are as follows:

Oregon Trail: This corridor consists of three segments. Segment A is approximately 1 mile north of the Oregon Trail Road between the west boundary of the resource area and Oil Mountain. This segment will be used by all types and sizes of facilities. To the extent possible, the southern ½ mile of the corridor width will be used for power lines and overhead facilities and the northern ½ mile will be used for pipelines and other buried facilities. Segment B extends between Oil Mountain and Casper, generally parallel to the Oregon Trail and over Emigrant Ridge. All sizes of overhead facilities will be considered in this segment. Segment C branches from the Oil Mountain area, around the north edge of Oil Mountain, then along Poison Spider Road into Casper. This segment will be used for all types and sizes of rights-of-way, but primarily for buried facilities.

Poison Spider Road: This corridor is ½ mile wide, ¼ mile on either side of the road between the west boundary of the resource area and the junction with Segment C of the Oregon Trail corridor. Only wood pole power lines and telephone lines will be considered in this corridor.

U.S. Highway 20-26: This corridor will be 3 miles wide, 1½ miles on either side of the highway. All types and sizes of facilities will be considered.

Wyoming Highway 259/U.S. 87: This corridor is 2 miles wide between Casper and Ormsby road, 5 miles wide between Ormsby Road and Midwest, and 1 mile wide from Midwest to the northern boundary of the resource area. All sizes and types of facilities will be considered. Routing changes will be made to avoid conflicts with the towns of Midwest and Edgerton. Routing also will avoid oil and gas production areas in the Salt Creek Field.

Wyoming Highway 387: This corridor is 2 miles wide, extending from west of Midwest past Edgerton to the northern boundary of the resource area. Wood pole or buried power and telephone lines will be considered in this corridor. Routing adjustments will be made to minimize the impacts on the towns of Midwest and Edgerton and on oil field operations.

No rights-of-way will be allowed in the following areas: Wyoming Highway 220 from Bessemer Mountain to Alcova; I-25 in Ts. 37, 38, and 39 N., Rs. 79 and 80 W.; Rattlesnake Range; Pine Ridge; north and west of the Badwater, Lost Cabin-Arminto, and Buffalo Creek Roads and the Redwall ACEC; Muddy Mountain elk winter range; within 1 mile of the North Platte River; Jackson Canyon ACEC; Squaw Mountain; and the towns of Midwest and Edgerton except for utility lines serving these towns and roads and facilities necessary for operation of the Salt Creek oil field.

Management Prescriptions

One exception will be made if oil and gas production is achieved in the South Big Horn Mountains. At that time, rights-of-way will be allowed only in accordance with an approved oil field development plan. Rights-of-way needed to transport products out of the area must parallel county roads except for the Big Horn Mountains, Okie Trail, and Buffalo Creek county roads.

Acquisition of two easements will be pursued for public access along the Horse Ranch and Canyon Creek roads.

Recreation Management

Generally, the unit will be managed as an extensive recreation management area where dispersed recreation is encouraged and where visitors will have freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint. Recreation management and maintenance will emphasize monitoring, use supervision, and enforcement to resolve user conflicts and provide resource protection.

ORV use will be limited to existing roads and vehicle routes on all public lands except for the Poison Spider Bentonite Pit. This 200-acre area will be designated an open area for all forms of ORV use year-round. The BLM will seek assistance in managing the area through the use of a special recreation use permit, which will provide for a local ORV group to assist in managing, maintenance, and monitoring. Support facilities will be vault latrines, picnic tables, and trash cans.

The BLM will continue to manage and maintain Camel Hump Campground for camping. Only minimum facilities are planned: one vault latrine, designated parking and camping areas, picnic tables, and trash cans.

Soil, Water, and Air

The following sensitive drainages will be studied further to determine the need for additional

protective measures and for the development and implementation of watershed management plans: Cloud Creek, Cave Gulch, Castle Creek, Aspirin Creek, and Wallace Creek. The same kind of studies will be done on the fragile watershed areas Alcova Rim and at the head of Small Creek: T. 36 N., R. 82 W.; T. 38 N., R. 82 W., Sec. 4; and T. 39 N., R. 82 W., Secs. 33 and 34.

Level II stream surveys will continue until a statistically reliable data base can be established. Progress also will continue toward completion of the order III soil survey now being conducted for the rest of the unit.

The inventory of water right quantification on public land will continue.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System monitoring will continue on point discharges in oil fields.

Wildlife

The following wildlife management will be implemented:

For the Medicine Bow HMP, we will fence riparian areas, improve springs and seeps, control beaver populations with assistance from WGFD, and monitor and study habitat condition and trend and wildlife use.

For the Thirty-three Mile Reservoir HMP, we will provide exclosure fencing and initiate a study to determine the nesting density of waterfowl and shorebirds.

For the Teal Marsh Reservoir HMP, we will provide exclosure fencing, study the nesting density of waterfowl and shorebirds, fence the wetlands portion of the reservoir, annually initiate studies of antelope and deer winter ranges for condition of browse, monitor sage grouse and raptor nesting, mitigate oil and gas realty actions, and change fences in antelope critical winter range to meet standard specifications.

Additions & Corrections



ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE RMP/EIS

Any necessary additions or corrections to chapter 5 and appendix B of the final RMP/EIS have been incorporated into the "Management Prescriptions" and "Planning Decisions" sections of this document. Additions and corrections to other parts of the RMP/EIS are listed below. In the list, a partial paragraph at the top of the page counts as paragraph 1. Words that have been added or changed appear in bold type. Page numbers refer to the final RMP/EIS.

Page	Column	Para-graph	Line	Should Read
29	Left	After 3, add new paragraph		There are isolated parcels in RMUs 1 through 13 that are not likely to be used for public purpose needs or exchanges because they are remote and because such actions would be impractical and not cost effective. There is a need to be able to respond to a request for sale of these parcels when all other means of disposal have been exhausted. For this reason, sale of such parcels could be considered if it clearly would be in the public interest. The resource area would review any such request for sale to determine if it would be in the public interest and would conform with the management objectives for that RMU. This provision would allow greater flexibility in land disposals.
31	Left	2	2,3,4	. . . Current management would continue. The current management adequately . . . [There is no plan to withdraw the Red Wall from mineral entry.]
72	Left	5	4 to end	. . . resources. In general, human occupation has been concentrated along waterways and around water sources. Water is essential to life. Well-watered areas tend to support human occupation and life. The remnants of such occupation are observed historically as cultural resources. Delete the last sentence. (There is no evidence that supports the statement that fragile and sensitive watersheds can contain a higher probability of occurrence of cultural resources.)

Page	Column	Para-graph	Line	Should Read
74	Left	6	1 and 2	... the primary goal of providing long-term productivity of the soil and water resources. (Our use of the term "protecting" in the final RMP/EIS was inaccurate.)
99				Map legend—Private Surface 123,000 acres
101	Left	1	10	... land is not within the ACEC
230, 231				These pages were inadvertently placed in the wrong order during document production. The material on page 231 should appear on 230, and vice versa. They have been placed in the correct order in the "Planning Decisions" section of this record of decision.

REFERENCES

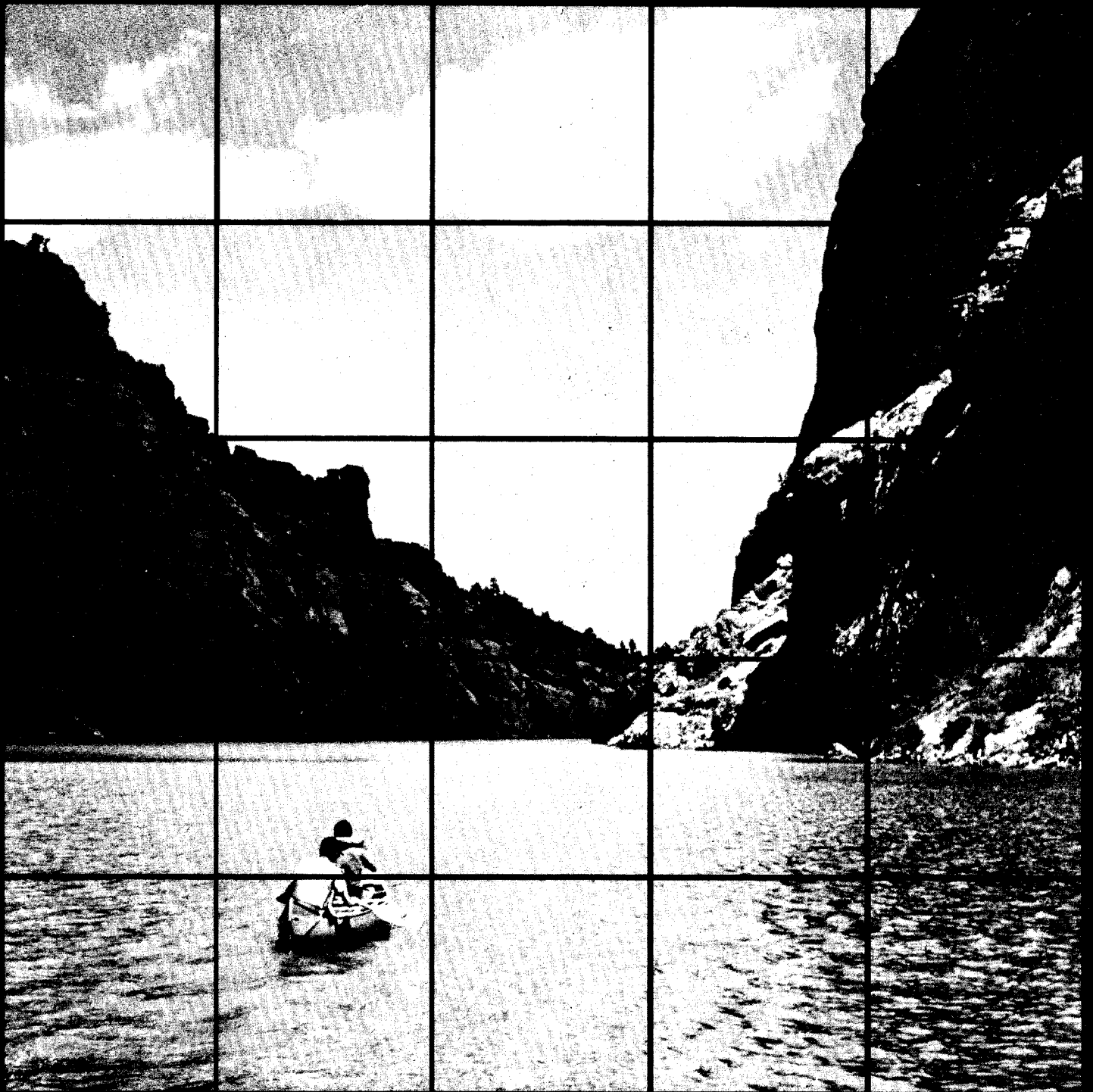
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- 1982 *Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas Leasing in the Platte River Resource Area*. EA no. WY-062-1-13. Casper, WY.

- 1983a *Eastern Powder River Basin Management Framework Plan Amendment for Coal Management: Converse County Review Area: Final*. Casper, WY.
- 1983b *Powder River Coal Region Tract Summaries*. [Cheyenne, WY.]
- 1984a *Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Platte River Resource Area*. Casper, WY.
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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Platte River Resource Area, Wyoming

May 1985