Section 4. Management Area Exploration and Development Restrictions and Limitations For Resource Protection.

• Introduction

The PAPA contains a number of sensitive human/environmental resources which could potentially be adversely affected by natural gas exploration and development activities. Each of these resources has been designated a Sensitive Resource Management Zone (SRMZ) based upon public input and analysis contained in the DEIS. Each SRMZ is a compilation of resource values and is described and mapped in detail in the Pinedale Anticline DEIS, Chapters 2, 3, and 4.

When combined, these SRMZs cover nearly all of the PAPA, particularly in the northern two-thirds of the project area. Many of these SRMZs overlap making management of any particular area of the PAPA complicated. For instance, on the northern part of the PAPA, areas which have been identified as visually sensitive overlap with winter and crucial winter range for deer, residential areas, sage grouse lek buffers and nesting habitat, and the Mesa Breaks. To address the overlapping SRMZs, the BLM has divided the entire PAPA into 9 distinct Management Areas (MA) shown in Figure 8. MAs 1 through 8 apply only to Federal lands and minerals. All non-Federal lands and minerals have been combined into MA 9. Each of the MAs have different management objectives based on the combination of SRMZs present. To allow for the development of the natural gas in a reasonable balance with the resource management objectives for each MA, the following development restrictions/limitations will be applied on federal lands and minerals. Table 2 summarizes the Resource Protection Mitigation Alternative maximum allowable levels of well pad development by MA. If the threshold is reached, no additional well pads will be authorized until additional environmental analysis has been completed.

Management Objectives and Restrictions/Limitations Common to All Management Areas

This section describes management objectives and development limitations/restrictions that will be applied to all Federal lands and minerals in all MAs across the PAPA:

Objectives:

- Continue to promote active public participation in all aspects of future exploration and development.
- To the extent practicable, eliminate or minimize undue and unnecessary disturbance/impacts (direct and cumulative).
- Avoid disturbances on slopes 25% or greater, unless otherwise specified, and on sensitive soils to prevent erosion, protect water quality and reduce impacts in

- sensitive viewsheds.
- Protect cultural/Native American sacred sites.
- Minimize impacts on recreation use and sensitive viewshed.
- Continue maintenance of livestock grazing and trailing operations.

Restrictions/Limitations:

- Proposed and cumulative development (wells, access roads, pipelines, centralized production facilities (CPF), compressors, etc.) within each MA will be reviewed at least annually within the context of the Adaptive Environmental Management (AEM) planning process. Monitoring will be developed to address both direct and cumulative impacts. All major road and pipeline plans may need to be reviewed by the Transportation Planning Committee to ensure their locations will result in the least impact.
- Prior to surface disturbing activity, site-specific environmental analysis of the action on the management objectives/resource values of the affected MA will be necessary.
- Where necessary, areas to be disturbed will require inventories or special studies to determine the extent of site-specific impacts and appropriate mitigation. Operators could be required to complete inventories or short-term special studies under guidelines provided by the BLM or as developed through the AEM planning process.
- As discussed in Appendix A, if in the conduct of operations, substantial unanticipated environmental effects to listed, proposed or candidate species are observed (whether effects are direct or indirect), formal consultation with USFWS will be immediately initiated in addition to cessation of all such operations; or if effects to paleontological values, objects of historic or scientific interest are observed, the operator will be required to immediately contact the BLM and the operator will be required to cease any operations that will result in the destruction of or adverse impact to these values.
- Each and every proposed action on public lands will be required to comply with the Mitigation Guidelines and Standard Practices for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities contained in Appendix A.
- BLM will require each right-of-way, Application for Permit to Drill or other application to include a reclamation plan in conformance with the Mitigation Guidelines and Standard Practices for Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities (see Section 3, Soils and Vegetation Protection/ Reclamation/Monitoring and Appendix A). BLM will require all aboveground facilities

Table 2. Resource Protection Mitigation Alternative Maximum Allowable Level of Well Pad Development by Management Area.

Management Area # Name	Acres	Average # Pads / Square Mile	Maximum # Pads/Square Mile	Total Producing Pads Threshold (8)
1 Lander Trail (1)	3,460	0	0	0
2 Mesa Breaks (1)	7,366	0	0 (3)	0
3 Unleased Federal	1,347	0	0	0
4 Sensitive Viewshed	8,686	2	4 (4)	28
5 Crucial Deer, Antelope, Sage Grouse Habitat	67,801	2	16 (5)	212
6 Crucial Sage Grouse Habitat	39,205	3	16 (6)	183
7 Ross Butte/Blue Rim Sensitive Soils, Plants, Raptors	10,953	4	16 (7)	68
8 Minimal Conflict Area	26,605	4	16	168
9 Non-Federal Lands (2)	31,925	4	16	200
TOTAL	197,345			859 (9)

- 1. Development of leases beneath this MA is provided for from wells drilled from pads located outside the MA.
- 2. This MA is comprised of private and state lands and minerals. BLM has no authority or control over well pad numbers/placement on private or state lands. The number of wells indicated are an only an estimate based upon an average of four wells/square mile.
- 3. There are a few areas where the width of the Breaks may exceed the technological and economic feasibility of directional drilling, in which case BLM will consider an exception under the guidelines provided in Section 3, *Request for Exception*. Under these circumstances, production facilities will be located off-site, outside the Breaks, unless analysis shows that impacts would be less on-site than would occur at alternative locations outside the Breaks.
- 4. Operators will be required to consider implementing CPFs and/or pad drilling to allow for additional well pads/wells to reduce unnecessary/undue MA impacts.
- 5. More than 4 well pads/square mile will require operators to consider implementing CPFs and/or pad drilling to allow for additional well pads to reduce unnecessary/undue MA impacts.
- 6. More than 8 well pads/square mile will require operators to consider implementing CPFs and/or pad drilling to allow for additional well pads to reduce unnecessary/undue MA impacts.
- 7. Operators will be required to consider implementing CPFs and/or pad drilling to allow for additional well pads to reduce unnecessary/undue MA impacts.
- 8. If the well pad threshold is reached within a MA, no additional well pads will be authorized until additional environmental analysis has been completed. A well that is a dry hole and which has been plugged and reclaimed (recontoured and seeded) for one full growing season, may be credited back to that MA. Successful revegetation is expected in 3 to 5 years. Well pad numbers represent the total per MA based on the average number of well pads/square mile BLM considered appropriate for reasonable resource protection.
- 9. Although the total number of producing well pads equals 859, this is not the number of producing well pads authorized by this ROD. This total represents the number of well pads in each MA that would occur if the average number of well pads per square mile, which is considered appropriate for reasonable resource protection, were developed. The ROD analyzes and allows 700 producing pads for the project area as a whole.

- to be painted with appropriate nonreflective standard environmental colors specified by the BLM.
- Low profile tanks will be required wherever visual sensitivity is an issue and/or wherever deemed appropriate mitigation to help maintain the basic characteristics of the landscape. Unless excepted, BLM will allow only low profile tanks north of the New Fork River and within the Lander Trail viewshed.
- BLM will require productive well locations and their access roads (including out slopes and back slopes) to be reclaimed (using a BLM-approved seed mix) by the fall or spring after the well has been drilled and brought on line.
- Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be required to control sediment from all construction sites. Because of concerns regarding potential sediment impacts to the New Fork and Green Rivers, BLM will require operators to provide more detailed plans, with their APD and/or right-of-way application, for erosion control, revegetation, and restoration on sites within one mile of the Green and New Fork Rivers. These plans will be required prior to initiating any construction activities (see Appendix A, Section A-5, pages A-44 through 52 for examples of BMP considerations). Documentation of adequate monitoring and repair of erosion control structures will be required by WDEQ.
- No well pads, access roads, or aboveground facilities will be allowed within 0.25 miles of a sage grouse lek. In selecting a site for a compressor facility, the distance from the edge of a sage grouse lek shall be sufficient to result in a noise level increase from operating facilities no greater than 10 decibels (dBA) above background (i.e., 39 dBA background + 10 dBA = 49 dBA). Further restrictions may be required if the species is determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be eligible for listing as either threatened or endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. Monitoring will be required by BLM to determine which leks in the PAPA are active and which have been abandoned.
- The placement of well pads, access roads, or other aboveground facilities will not be allowed within 825 feet of an active raptor nest, 1,000 feet of a ferruginous hawk nest, and 2,600 feet of a bald eagle nest. Wells that must be located closer than 2,600 feet (but will not be allowed closer than 2,000 feet) of a bald eagle nest will be out of the direct line of sight of the nest; will have no human activity at the well site from February 15 through August 15 except in the case of an emergency; and will locate production facilities off-site or at a central production facility location at a distance of 2,600 feet or more from the nest, or out of the direct line of sight of, an eagle nest.

- To minimize visual impacts in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II or III areas, authorization of well pad locations, new roads, CPFs, buried pipelines, etc. will require the operator to demonstrate to the AO's satisfaction that the location and/or facilities have reasonably incorporated visual design considerations that will mitigate unnecessary visual impacts.
- Operators will be required to consider implementing CPFs, particularly in areas of sensitive resource values, to allow for additional well pads and reduce unnecessary/undue impacts. Consequently, operator advanced planning for CPFs and gathering pipeline systems will be necessary. Where CPFs are planned, temporary surface pipelines may be required by BLM until the location of CPFs is determined. The AEM planning process will help provide information to determine the need/appropriateness of CPFs and when and where they should be installed.
- If well pad thresholds are reached within a MA, dry hole plugged and abandoned well pads, successfully reclaimed for one growing season, may be credited back to that MA.
- Abandonment procedures of the BLM and WOGCC will be followed by the Operator for plugging and abandonment of each well. Reclamation plans provided in the approved APD or subsequently submitted at abandonment will be used for final abandonment procedures. All surface equipment will be removed from the site and the well pad area and access road(s) will be recontoured and topsoil spread over the disturbed areas as soon as weather permits. Reseeding of all disturbed areas will be accomplished in the fall or spring.
- Each MA has an identified well pad density threshold (see Tables 2 and 3). If the threshold is reached, no additional well pads will be authorized (except for drainage) until additional environmental analysis has been completed that includes the analysis of 1) the effects of development, todate, upon the identified resource management objectives and concerns, 2) on any additional resource affected by further development, 3) existing or reasonable additional mitigation deemed necessary, and 4) public review and comment.

Individual Management Area Objectives and Restrictions/Limitations

In addition to the general objectives and restrictions/limitations listed above, the BLM will implement the additional objectives and restrictions/limitations listed in Table 3 and unique to the MA's shown in Figure 8.

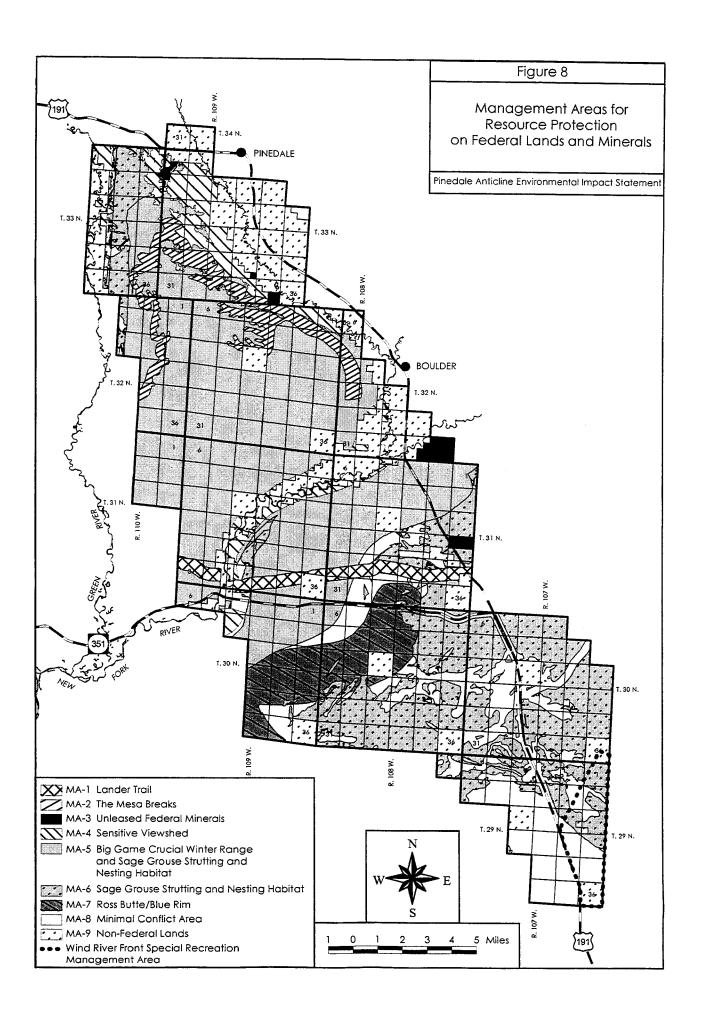


Table 3. Individual Management Area Objectives and Restrictions/Limitations						
Management Area Objectives	Exploration and Development Restrictions/Limitations					
N	MA 1 - Lander Trail					
Preserve the integrity of the trail and the trail viewshed.	 In compliance with the existing Oregon/California Trail Management Plan, within the 3,460 federal acres located within 0.25 miles of the Lander Trail, no new disturbance will be allowed on the trail except where existing improved roads and pipelines currently cross the trail. To minimize impacts to the trail setting, no construction activities will be allowed within 0.25 miles of the trail on Federal lands and minerals, unless screened from the trail by topography. In the trail viewshed (defined as up to 3 miles north of the trail and south of the trail to Wyoming Highway 351) beyond the current 0.25 mile protective buffer, the completion of a visibility analysis will be required on a case-bycase basis so that well pads, access roads and pipelines can be located on Federal lands and minerals in a manner that minimizes their visibility from the trail to the greatest extent practicable. Visibility analysis will involve completing a visual resource contrast analysis (BLM Manual H-8431-1; Form 8400-4) and utilizing viewshed analyses, such as in Figure 3-11 of the DEIS, and/or visual simulation modeling to determine the best location to screen facilities. If extensive development occurs within the trail viewshed (i.e., more than 4 well pads/square mile) on Federal lands and minerals, installation of CPFs or pad drilling may be required to reduce/eliminate tanks and other facilities from well locations visible from the trail. 					
I	MA 2 - Mesa Breaks					
Maintain the existing quality, suitability and habitat effectiveness of the Mesa Breaks deer crucial winter range. These Breaks provide thermal cover and forage during severe winters. Retain the existing character of the landscape and sensitive viewshed. Avoid disturbance on slopes 10 percent or greater and on sensitive soils to prevent erosion and altering the sensitive viewshed.	 To minimize impacts within the 7,366 Federal acres of highly sensitive wildlife habitat, soils, viewshed, and seasonal recreation use area, well pads, new access roads/pipelines (particularly the area of the Breaks and Sensitive Viewshed shown as "no new roads" on Figures 5 and 6) will avoid being placed within the Breaks on Federal lands and minerals. However, if in the course of site-specific environmental analysis BLM determines that the consequential environmental impacts would be less within the Breaks than outside, permits may be issued in the Breaks. There are a few areas where the width of the Breaks may exceed the technological and economic feasibility of directional drilling, in which case BLM will consider an exception under the guidelines provided above in Section 3, Request for Exception. Under these circumstances, production facilities will be located off-site, outside the Breaks. The Transportation Planning Committee will review all new access roads or 					

disturbance.

and submit recommendations to the BLM on the location considered the

3. Planning for wells within this MA will require additional public involvement and monitoring under the AEM planning process. Proposed project development (e.g., well pad, pipeline, CPFs, etc.) will require site-specific NEPA analysis that addresses wildlife, soils, visibility, recreation and any

4. Disturbance on slopes 10 percent or greater will be avoided within the Breaks and on highly erosive soils or soils with a high degree of color contrast to prevent erosion, water quality degradation and visual contrast from

most environmentally acceptable.

other affected resources.

Table 3. Continued							
Management Area Objectives	Exploration and Development Restrictions/Limitations						
MA 3 - Unleased Federal Minerals							
These Federal minerals have been closed to mineral lease. They include Federal minerals under the industrial park west of Pinedale, several tracts near Boulder that were withdrawn at the request of the Department of Defense, Native American sensitive sites, etc. The management objective of this MA will be to continue to hold these parcels closed to development.							
MA	4 - Sensitive Viewshed						
Protect the sensitive viewshed by retaining the existing character of the landscape. Protect/maintain winter and crucial winter deer range. Protect and maintain existing raptor nesting habitat.	 To minimize impacts within the 8,686 Federal acres of sensitive viewshed and crucial deer winter range, the threshold of producing well pads allowed will be 28 within this MA (based on an average of two/square mile). The maximum number of pads/square mile will be four. However, pad drilling or CPFs could be used to allow for additional well pads if no unnecessary or undue short- or long-term impacts to the sensitive viewshed will occur. To the extent practicable, new roads will avoid the area of the Breaks and Sensitive Viewshed shown as "no new roads" on Figures 5 and 6. The installation of CPFs and/or employment of pad drilling will be required on Federal lands and minerals to screen tanks, other facilities and road and pipeline disturbance that could degrade the visual quality of the landscape from view points within the town of Pinedale, adjacent housing development areas and portions of U.S. Highway 191. Approval of well pad locations, new roads, or buried pipelines will be conditioned upon the operator developing a visual resource protection plan, acceptable to BLM, for the mitigation of anticipated impacts. Planning for wells within this MA will require additional public involvement and monitoring under the AEM planning process. Proposed project development (e.g., well pad, pipeline, CPFs, etc.) will require site-specific NEPA analysis that addresses the sensitive viewshed, wildlife, soils, visibility, recreation and any other affected resources. Disturbance on slopes 10 percent or greater will be avoided on the face of the Mesa and on highly erosive soils or soils with a high degree of color contrast 						

disturbance.

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Management Area Objectives

Exploration and Development Restrictions/Limitations

MA 5 - Big Game Winter Range and Sage Grouse Strutting and Nesting Habitat

Limit surface disturbance and human activity which could displace deer and antelope from winter ranges and sage grouse from strutting and nesting habitat resulting in mortalities and reduced population levels.

Implement measures to screen activities and facilities so they do not attract the attention of a casual observer in VRM Class III areas on either side of the New Fork and Green Rivers (see DEIS Figure 3-9).

- To minimize impacts within this 67,801 acre big game and sage grouse crucial habitat and visually sensitive area, the <u>threshold</u> of producing well pads allowed will be 212 within this MA (based on an <u>average</u> of two/square mile). From 0 up to 16 well pads/square mile will be allowed to be constructed and drilled in any given section.
- 2. At more than 4 well pads/square mile, BLM may require the operators to pad drill any additional wells or to install CPFs on Federal lands and minerals. The operators will be required to demonstrate why either pad drilling or the installation of CPFs are not reasonable or practicable to eliminate production facilities (tanks, dehydration units, etc.) that require daily and weekly maintenance traffic at individual well locations. The DEIS demonstrates that it is desirable to reduce the effects of human activity upon wintering mule deer and sage grouse breeding and nesting. BLM will also use the results of monitoring/evaluation of resource impacts in determining the need/appropriateness of requiring pad drilling or CPFs.
- 3. To minimize impacts on Federal lands in the VRM Class III viewshed, authorization of well pad locations, new roads, CPF's, buried pipelines, compressor stations, etc. will be conditioned upon the operator developing and submitting a visual resource protection plan, demonstrating, to AO's satisfaction, that the location and/or facilities meet VRM Class III management objectives to the extent reasonable and practicable.
- Planning for project development within this MA will be processed on a case-by-case basis and will require periodic monitoring under the AEM planning process.
- 5. Proposed project development on Federal lands and minerals will require site-specific environmental analysis that addresses the impacts of the proposal on, among other resources, mule deer and antelope crucial winter range use, sage grouse strutting and nesting, highly erodible soils, and VRM Class II and III areas. Such environmental analysis will be used to locate well pads, access roads, pipelines, production facilities, CPFs, compressors, etc., in a manner that minimizes impacts to wildlife, protects erodible soils, and screens the disturbance and facilities, to the extent reasonable and practicable, from the view of residences and recreation activity along the Green and/or New Fork Rivers, U.S. Highway 191 and Wyoming Highway 351 and to determine any necessary seasonal use restrictions.

MA 6 - Sage Grouse Strutting and Nesting Habitat

Protect this area from unnecessary surface disturbance and human activities which could displace sage grouse from crucial strutting and nesting habitat resulting in mortalities and reduced population levels.

Ensure protection of the Green River and adjacent subbasins from increased erosion and sedimentation.

Avoid activities and facilities that create barriers to the seasonal movements of antelope.

Partially retain the existing character of the landscape, on each side of U.S. Highway 191 and the Wind River Front Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), by implementing measures which reasonably incorporate into the surface disturbance and/or facility, visual design considerations that will mitigate anticipated visual impacts so they do not dominate the view of the casual observer and so they replicate the existing characteristics of the landscape.

- To minimize impacts within the 39,205 Federal acres of sage grouse crucial habitat, antelope migration corridor, VRM Class III area and SRMA, the threshold of producing well pads allowed will be 183 pads within this MA (based on an average of three pads/square mile). From 0 up to 16 well pads/square mile will be allowed to be constructed and drilled.
- 2. If development requires more than eight pads/square mile (four pads/square mile within the VRM class III and the SRMA east of U.S. Highway 191), on Federal lands and minerals, the operators will be required to either drill additional wells from existing pads (pad drilling) or install CPFs. This will reduce the effects of human activity upon sage grouse breeding and nesting by reducing the daily and weekly maintenance traffic at individual well locations and reduce visual impacts from production facilities. BLM will also use the results of monitoring and evaluation of resource impacts in determining the need/appropriateness of requiring pad drilling or CPFs.
- 3. To minimize impacts on Federal lands and minerals in the VRM Class III viewshed and the Wind River Front SRMA, approval of well pad locations, new roads, pad drilling sites, CPFs, buried pipelines, etc. will be conditioned upon the operator developing and submitting a visual resource protection plan, demonstrating, to AO's satisfaction, that the location and/or facilities meet VRM Class III and SRMA management objectives to the extent reasonable and practicable.
- 4. Proposed project development will require site-specific environmental analysis addressing, among other resources, antelope crucial winter range use, sage grouse strutting and nesting, VRM Class III visual impacts, and SRMA objectives to best locate a well pad, access road, pipeline, production facilities, CPF, compressor, etc., in a manner that minimizes impacts to wildlife and screens the disturbance and facilities, to the extent reasonable and practicable, from the view of U.S. Highway 191 and Wyoming Highway 351.

MA 7 - Ross Butte/Blue Rim

Avoid disturbance to the fossil-bearing formations on a sitespecific basis and protect paleontological fossil resources.

Avoid disturbance on highly erodible soils and maintain soil stability and productivity.

Protect and maintain existing raptor nesting habitat and protect sensitive plant species.

Protect the visual quality of the unique badland area.

- To minimize impacts within the 10,953 Federal acres of fossil-bearing formations, highly erodible soils, raptor nesting habitat, and sensitive plant species, the <u>threshold</u> of producing well pads allowed will be 68 pads within this MA (based on an <u>average</u> of four pads/square mile). From 0 up to 16 well pads/square mile will be allowed to be constructed and drilled in any given section.
- 2. In areas of raptor nesting, on Federal lands and minerals, Operators will be required to employ directional drilling, pad drilling or the installation of CPFs to reduce and minimize impacts to nesting raptors and eliminate daily and weekly maintenance traffic at individual well locations. This will reduce the effects of human activity upon raptor nesting documented in the DEIS.
 BLM will also use the results of monitoring/evaluation of resource impacts in determining the need/appropriateness of requiring pad drilling or CPFs.
- 3. Proposed project development will require site-specific environmental analysis addressing, among other resources, paleontological values (an on-site paleontological assessment may be required), raptor nesting and breeding, erodible soils, visual quality of the badlands, and any other affected resource impacts to best locate well pads, access roads, pipelines, production facilities, CPF's, compressors, etc., in a manner that minimizes impacts to the raptors, highly erodible soils, and provides for the collection and interpretation of paleontological resources.

MA 8 - Minimal Conflict Area

Maintain antelope summer range and avoid activities and facilities that will create barriers to the seasonal movements of antelope.

Avoid highly erodible soils.

Partially retain the existing character of the landscape, on each side of U.S. Highway 191 (classified as VRM Class III) and the Wind River Front SRMA, by implementing measures which reasonably incorporate into the surface disturbance and/or facility, visual design considerations that will mitigate anticipated visual impacts so they do not dominate the view of the casual observer and so they replicate the existing characteristics of the landscape.

- To minimize impacts within the 26,605 Federal acres of antelope summer range and migration corridor, VRM Class III area. SRMA, and other uses, the threshold of producing well pads allowed will be 168 pads within this MA (based on an <u>average</u> of four pads/square mile). From 0 up to 16 well pads/square mile will be allowed to be constructed and drilled in any given section.
- 2. If it becomes necessary to develop more than four pads/square mile on Federal lands and minerals within the VRM Class III and SRMA east of U.S. Highway 191, the operators will be required to either drill additional wells from existing pads (pad drilling) or install CPFs. This will reduce the visual impacts from roads, pads, and production facilities. BLM will also use the results of monitoring and evaluation of resource impacts in determining the need/appropriateness of requiring pad drilling or CPFs.
- 3. To minimize impacts on Federal lands and minerals in the VRM Class III viewshed and the Wind River Front SRMA, approval of well pad locations, new roads, pad drilling sites, CPFs, buried pipelines, etc. will be conditioned upon the operator developing and submitting a visual resource protection plan, demonstrating, to AO's satisfaction, that the location and/or facilities meet VRM Class III and SRMA management objectives to the extent reasonable and practicable.
- 4. Proposed project development will require site-specific environmental analysis addressing, among other resources, antelope crucial winter range use, sage grouse strutting and nesting, VRM Class III visual impacts, and SRMA objectives to best locate a well pad, access road, pipeline, production facilities, CPF, compressor, etc., in a manner that minimizes impacts to wildlife and screens the disturbance and facilities, to the extent reasonable and practicable, from the view of U.S. Highway 191 and Wyoming Highway 351.

MA 9 - Non-Federal Lands

Private and state lands not under the jurisdiction of the BLM.

BLM cannot impose management objectives or restrictions/limitations on these lands. However, it was suggested during the public workshops that the operators voluntarily adopt the interrelated and interdependent objectives for these areas. Recommendations included maintenance, improvement and restoration of riparian habitat to provide enhanced wildlife and livestock forage/habitat; avoidance of disturbance to scrub-shrub or forested wetland types to protect water quality; survey for cultural and Native American sacred sites; cooperation with private landowners to avoid impacts to area residences; protecting raptor nesting habitat; and continuing the maintenance of livestock grazing and trailing operations.

This MA of 31,925 acres includes private and state lands not under the jurisdiction of the BLM. It is assumed that the number of well pads on private and state lands would average four/square mile or 200 pads. From 0 up to 16 well pads/square mile could be constructed and drilled in any given section.

Lands along the rivers include most of the wetland/riparian areas found in the PAPA, farm and ranch lands, and 100-year flood plains for the New Fork and Green Rivers.

The COE regulates the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, and would require operators to demonstrate that impacts to special aquatic sites, including wetlands, have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers migratory bird species, threatened and endangered species, and species that are proposed for listing. Operators are required to comply with the Endangered Species Act, regardless of land ownership, in the implementation of construction, drilling, and operation of natural gas development.