

APPENDIX G: SUMMARY OF THE EXEMPTION AREA AND FORT MEADE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Exemption Area Management Framework Plan (1975)

The BLM is presently responsible for the management of 5,323 acres in and around Lead, South Dakota called by the Exemption Area. A Management Framework Plan is the land management document for this area.

The decisions outlined in the Management Framework Plan are consistent with the multiple-use concept and addresses land, livestock forage, forest, watershed, fire, recreation and wildlife resources. The following is a summary of the major decisions by resource.

Lands

Several recommendations are for the disposal of lands within the Exemption Area by patent, sale, lease and/or R&PP.

Consider a plan to purify waste water only after the completion of a comprehensive environmental impact statement.

Abate the unauthorized dwelling, aqueducts, powerlines, and telephone lines by right-of-way and/or small tract leases.

Livestock Forage

Implement grazing systems through AMPs on the fenced larger tracts of the Exemption Area.

Maintain management to provide at least sustained yield of forage and other resource values.

Determine and restrict area to proper season of use, and class of livestock.

Forestry

Re-inventory the lands in the Exemption Area.

Continue bark beetle control in conjunction with other federal agencies, local government and state government forestry program.

Base timber harvest on the resources production capability and allow livestock grazing only in areas where reproduction is not of prime importance, pile and burn slash where necessary (no ORV use in production areas).

Revise Forest Management Plan (FMP) and then initiate an access acquisition program.

Watershed

Do not allow timber harvesting during periods of excessive soil moisture, maintain buffer zones along streams and springs, reseed all disturbed areas, close roads and trails not necessary for management.

Fire Management

Review and update existing fire protection agreement to ensure unnecessary resource damage.

Recreation

Conduct Resource Information Systems evaluations on all land disposals, activity plans, and major revisions in the MFP.

Manage the areas for aesthetics and minimize all visual impacts as much as possible.

Restrict ORV use and explore possibilities of trail for hiking, horses, etc.

Wildlife

Conduct a Habitat Inventory and Analysis of Exemption Area.

Optimum interspersation of wildlife habitat components for white-tailed and mule deer, elk, turkeys, grouse, non-game, and fish that inhabit the Exemption Area.

Attempt to control access of major blocks of federal land. Evaluate and assess predator and pest control program on federal lands. Coordinate and cooperate with other federal, state, and private land management agencies in developing a habitat management plan.

Fort Meade Management Framework Plan (1973) and Recreation Management Plan (May 1981).

The BLM is presently responsible for the management of approximately 6,693 acres of the former Fort Meade Military Reservation. The area is termed the Fort Meade Recreational Area and is currently being managed for grazing, forestry, wildlife, and a variety of recreational uses under multiple-use management concepts. The two land use management plans are the Management Framework Plan and the Recreation Management Plan.

The decisions of the Management Framework Plan are consistent with the multiple-use concept. The following is a summary of the decisions by resource.

Lands

Review current R&PP leases for size and need.

Encourage litter control from adjacent landfill.

Require existing utility lines be buried for improvement of aesthetics in the area.

Review all unauthorized uses and BLM developments.

Timber

Forest Management Plan (FMP) needs to be updated.

Forestry management practices need to be implemented to control insects and disease epidemics to protect the existing number and aesthetic values of the unit.

Off road vehicle travel should be limited to areas suitable to such activity to protect regeneration and decrease fire danger.

Intensively manage area of 50 site index to enhance the timber production of acceptable size, quantity, and quality in a reasonable length of time.

Develop a grazing system that protects seedlings in spring and late winter.

Watershed

Restrict ORV traffic to designated roads, trails, and areas designated for that use.

Develop a grazing system that is consistent with good multiple resource management practices.

Recreation

Recreation Management Plan needs to be developed to protect the recreational opportunities of the area from degradation and destruction (See Fort Meade Recreation Management Plan, May 1981).

Maintain and improve the aesthetics of the unit with good multiple resource management, especially enhancing watershed values and wildlife habitat.

Provide interpretation of the historical values on the management unit.

Livestock Forage

Improve forage production, vigor, quality ground and seedling establishment by using rest-rotation grazing systems; also use good multi-resource management practices to accomplish the above (forestry practices, prescribed burning, etc.).

Provide water facilities to improve forage utilization.

Wildlife

Enhance wildlife habitat by increasing browse, enlarging fringe areas, improving oak reproduction success, developing a hardwood management program, and limiting livestock grazing to May 15 to October 15.

Add additional water sources which will benefit wildlife.

The major decisions of the Recreation Management Plan are:

Prohibit the use, possession afield, or discharge of all firearms on the south end of the Fort Meade area (all land south of Highway No. 34), except during such Big Game seasons as may be established by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, annually.

Prohibit the use, possession afield, or discharge of all firearms on the north end of the Fort Meade area, (all land north of Highway No. 34), except in specially designated areas or from September 1 to December 31, of each year, during such hunting game seasons as may be established annually.

Restrict all vehicle use in the unit to designated roads and trails.

Prohibit the possession or use of any fireworks.

Camping is restricted to designated campgrounds.

Open fires are prohibited. Fires are allowed only in campgrounds or other designated fire pits.

Provide enforcement personnel to manage visitor use in the planning unit. A cooperative agreement will be developed between BLM and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks or the Meade County Sheriff's Office to implement this program.

Develop and maintain a trail system for use by hikers and equestrians.

Develop an interpretive plan to identify historic and archaeological sites worthy of interpretation.

Taking or attempting to take any wild animal by trap or snare is prohibited.