

APPENDIX Q

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The publications referenced in this appendix are sources of “Best Management Practices” (BMPs). BMPs are measures that have been developed by agency, industry, scientific, and/or working groups as voluntary methods for reducing environmental impacts associated with certain classes of activity. BLM typically uses these measures as guidelines or “project design features” during implementation planning at the activity and/or project-specific levels.

The list included in this appendix is not limiting, but references the most frequently used sources. As new publications are developed, BLM may consider those BMPs. In addition, many BLM handbooks (such as BLM Manual 9113-Roads and 9213-Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operation) also contain BMP-type measures for minimizing impacts. These BLM-specific guidance and direction documents are not referenced in this appendix.

Planning implications: Use of Best Management Practices is not mandatory, since individual measures may not be appropriate for use in every situation. They may be added, dropped or modified through plan maintenance.

NEPA implications: Only the wind energy development BMPs have been analyzed in a NEPA process. The use of other BMPs should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis in NEPA documents associated with projects on the public lands. These case-by-case analyses should not “tier to” the BMP publication as a way to dismiss environmental impacts (i.e., must still analyze and disclose the environmental considerations and effects associated with use of the BMP).

Montana Best Management Practices for Grazing

Developed by: Working group with representation from: MSU College of Agriculture, Society of American Fisheries, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Woolgrowers Association, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Montana Farm Bureau, and Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Publication reference: N/A, first printed in 1999

Available From: Conservation Districts Bureau, DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena MT 59620-1601 (406-444-6667).

Description: Describes BMPs for livestock grazing designed to protect and enhance water quality, soils, plant communities, and other rangeland resources. Explains how and why to use BMPs to manage upland rangeland, forested rangeland, and riparian areas; and describes how grazing BMPs fit into a grazing management plan.

Water Quality BMPs for Montana Forests

Developed by: Montana State University Extension Service

Publication reference: EB158, 2001

Available From: MSU Extension Forestry, 32 Campus Dr, Missoula MT 59812, OR MSU Extension Publications, PO Box 172040 Bozeman MT 59717

Description: Discusses methods for managing forest land while protecting water quality and forest soils. Intended for all forest land in Montana, including non-industrial private, forest industry, and state or federally-owned forests. These are preferred (but voluntary) methods that go beyond Montana State Law (Streamside Management Zones). Includes definitions, basic biological information, and BMPs for Streamside Management Zones; road design, use, planning and locating, construction, drainage, and closure; stream crossings, soil, timber harvesting methods, reforestation, winter planning, and clean-up.

Montana Placer Mining BMPs

Developed by: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
 Publication Reference: Special Publication 106, October 1993
 Available from: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Main Hall, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, Butte MT 59701
 Description: Provides guidelines for planning, erosion control, and reclamation in arid to semi-arid, alpine, and subalpine environments, to prevent or decrease environmental damage and degradation of water quality.

BMPs for Fluid Minerals

Developed by: Bureau of Land Management
 Publication reference: n/a
 Available from: Online at: <http://www.blm.gov/bmp/>. Also see Washington Office IM No. 2004-194.
 Description: Uses information sheets and PowerPoint presentations to demonstrate measures that can be used to decrease the effects of fluid mineral development on visual and wildlife resources. Some measures as presented as “applicable to nearly all circumstances,” and others are to be considered by individual field offices on a case-by-case basis. Also includes examples of proper and improper applications.

BMPs for Wind Energy

Developed by: Bureau of Land Management
 Publication reference: Draft Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS (additional BMPs from the FEIS would also be incorporated)
 Available From: DEIS Chapter 2 (section 2.2.3.2) at <http://windeis.anl.gov/>
 Description: As part of the proposed action, BLM developed BMPs for each major step of the wind energy development process, including site monitoring and testing, plan of development preparation, construction, operation, and decommissioning. General BMPs are available for each step, and certain steps also include specific BMPs to address the following resource issues: wildlife and other ecological resources, Visual resources, Roads, Transportation, Noise, Noxious Weeds and Pesticides, Cultural/Historic Resources, Paleontological Resources, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management, Storm Water, Human Health and Safety, monitoring program, air emissions and excavation and blasting activities.

Montana Guide to the Streamside Management Zone Law

Note: The Montana Guide to the Streamside Management Zone Law is a field guide to compliance with State of Montana Law 77-5-301[1] MCA.

Developed by: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Service Forestry Bureau, in cooperation with Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Logging Association, Montana Wood Products Association, Plum Creek Timber LP, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management
 Publication reference: Revised August 2002
 Available From: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59801-3199, (406)542-4300, or local MT DNRC field office.
 Description: MT State Law (77-5-301[1] MCA). Complementary BMPs are found in the Water Quality BMPS for Montana Forests (also referenced in this appendix). Provides definitions, stream classifications, and guidelines on the seven forest practices prohibited by Montana law in SMZs (broadcast burning, operation of wheeled or tracked vehicles except on established roads, the forest practice of clearcutting, the construction of roads except when necessary to cross a stream or wetland; the handling, storage, application, or disposal of hazardous or toxic materials in a manner that pollutes streams, lakes, or wetlands, or that may cause damage or injury to humans, land, animals, or plants; the side casting of road material into a stream, lake, wetland, or watercourse; and the deposit of slash in streams, lakes, or other water bodies.