

## Issues Identified in the HiLine District

Planning issues are determined from demands, conflicts, or problems concerning use or management of public lands and resources. These issues may stem from new information or changed circumstances, the need to address environmental protection concerns, or a need to reassess the appropriate mix of allowable uses based on new information. The following planning issues were identified through public scoping and information gathered in analyzing the existing management situation in the planning area. Based on the input of the public, other government agencies, and the BLM and its cooperators, 10 key issues were identified.

Issue 1: How will the area be managed for the development of fluid minerals, solid minerals, and renewable energy?

Issue 2: Are there opportunities to enhance management through land ownership adjustment?

Issue 3: How will soils and vegetation be managed to achieve or maintain healthy ecosystems while providing for a broad range of multiple uses?

Issue 4: How will the area be managed for cultural resources and significant paleontological resources?

Issue 5: How should the BLM manage motorized travel to meet the needs for public access and resource uses while considering conflicts of use and effects on other resources? (*See the Travel Management section below.*)

Issue 6: How will access be managed to meet the needs of the public?

Issue 7: How will the BLM manage resource uses while protecting important wildlife habitat and special status species, including greater sage-grouse?

Issue 8: Which areas, if any, should be managed as special designations, and how should they be managed to protect values that warrant special designation status?

Issue 9: How will the BLM manage for fire, including wildfire and prescribed fire?

Issue 10: How will the BLM consider social and economic conditions in the planning area when managing BLM lands?

Issue 11: Which areas, if any, should be managed for wilderness characteristics and how should they be managed to protect those values?

## Travel Management

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and travel management are addressed at two levels of planning. OHV area designations of open, limited, or closed are addressed in the alternatives. In addition, travel management areas are prioritized in the alternatives by high, medium and low priority areas, but no site-specific route designations will be made in this RMP.

Travel management plans will be developed that define designated motorized and non-motorized transportation networks after the completion of this RMP.

### **OHV Areas Designated in the RMP/EIS**

**Open:** An area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR 8341 and 8342.

**Limited:** An area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following type of categories: Numbers of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions.

**Closed:** An area where motorized vehicle use off road is prohibited. Use of off-road vehicles in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

### **Travel Management Priority Areas Designated in the RMP/EIS**

**High Priority:** Will normally have travel management planning completed within five years of the signing of the Record of Decision as funding and staffing allow.

**Moderate and Low Priority:** Will have travel management planning completed within the life of the plan as funding and staffing allow.