

APPENDIX I

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming Buffalo Field Office Guidance for general management actions during BFO Resource Management Plan Revision as of August 13, 2008

Lands shown on the attached map in white will be subject to the existing decisions from the 1985 RMP (as amended) and the 2003 Environmental Impact Statement/Plan Amendment Record of Decision for the Powder River Basin. Areas that are shown in blue will be managed according to these same planning documents as well as the management actions listed below.

The additional management actions were designed in accordance with the 2003 Record of Decision which states, in part, "Land use plan monitoring will be conducted by BLM...Information gathered from this monitoring will guide mid-course corrections in adapting to the inevitable changes that will occur because of new information."

Fluid Minerals

- Processing of new proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Efforts will be made to assure that the impacts of surface disturbing projects will be consistent with a well pad density of 640 acres.
- Lease suspension requests will be processed in accordance with current regulations and policy.

Solid Minerals

- Processing of new proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Vegetation Management

- Current and proposed pesticide use proposals for weed control will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Consideration of new proposals for vegetation treatments other than weed control may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Fire Suppression

- The national strategy for fire suppression in sage-grouse habitat will be applied.
- Renewed emphasis on integration of resource advisors in fire suppression efforts.

Recreation

- Renewals for existing permitted actions will be allowed.
- New proposals for permitted activities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- New proposals for recreational facilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Wildlife

- Approved habitat improvements and maintenance of existing improvements will be allowed.
- New proposals for habitat improvement projects will be considered on a case by case basis.

Rangeland Management

- Grazing use will continue in accordance with the grazing regulations.
- New proposals for range improvements or treatments will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Realty

- Processing of new applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Changes to existing Terms & Conditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

When considering these general management actions on a case-by-case basis consideration will be given to maintaining a viable population of sage-grouse and associated habitat needs. The proponent will be asked to demonstrate that the proposal can be managed in a manner that effectively conserves sage-grouse habitats affected by the proposal.

BLM will work with industry to include measurable conservation objectives for use in project planning. Resources such as, but not limited to, the Local Sage-Grouse Working Group Plan may be used to develop these objectives. Each proposal will be evaluated by BLM in coordination with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department to ensure that BLM maintains habitat connectivity by addressing habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. Criteria that will be used when reviewing proposed activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Consolidation of infrastructure to lessen habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss.
- Effective conservation of sage-grouse seasonal habitats and habitat connectivity.
- Measurable conservation objectives.
- Consideration of measures contained in the Local Working Group Conservation Plan.