

Southern Wyoming Fire Zone

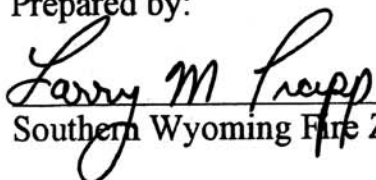
Fire Management Plan

2004

Southern Wyoming Fire Zone

Fire Management Plan

Prepared by:


Southern Wyoming Fire Zone, FMO

9/16/04
Date

Reviewed by:

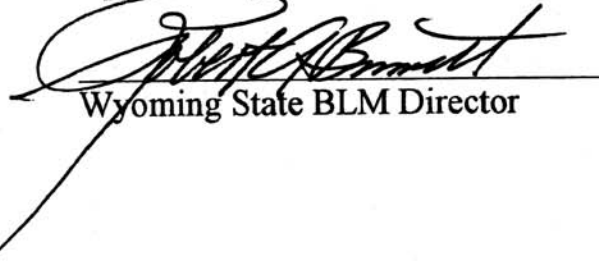

Rawlins Field Office Manager

9/22/04
Date


Lander Field Office Manager

9/16/2004
Date

Approved by:


Wyoming State BLM Director

9/27/07
Date

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southern Wyoming Fire Zone Fire Management Plan (FMP) is to implement National Fire Plan policy and guidance, and Resource Management Plan (RMP) decisions for fire and fuels management. This FMP is developed within the guidance and constraints of the public land decisions in the Rawlins Field Office RMP and the Lander Field Office RMP. RMP decisions and associated implementation plans are generally directed to allow wildland fire to be an integral part of ecosystem functions, to meeting resource management objectives, and to reduce risks to human life and property. The FMP facilitates direction, development, and implementation of fire management strategies. It is a readily accessible guidance document for BLM fire and resource personnel. A glossary of terms is located at the end of this document to clarify technical terms.

B. Relationship to Planning and Environmental Compliance

This FMP provides present decisions and direction for suppressing wildland fires, and using wildland fire, prescribed fire, and fuels treatment projects to achieve resource objectives. The plan is consistent with decisions in the Lander and Rawlins RMPs. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses are prepared for actions initiated under this FMP, except in emergency situations such as wildfire suppression. If a proposed action is not consistent with RMP decisions, the NEPA analysis may provide the rationale and basis for a RMP amendment.

C. Collaboration

This FMP is a strategic document identifying approved fire management direction determined by the RMPs for Lander and Rawlins and analyzed by the appropriate environmental impact statements. Both of these RMPs were developed with input and consultation from the following organizations: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), State of Wyoming (various agencies and divisions), local governments located within the planning areas, and interested citizens. This FMP meets the BLM's requirement to have an FMP covering all Public Lands. FMPs are guidance and strategic documents. Prior to fire management project implementation, environmental analysis and compliance with other federal and state requirements such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and other regulations will be accomplished.

D. Authorities

This FMP is developed under authority from the following:

- Protection Act of September 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 857; U.S.C. 594).
- Economy Act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 417; 31 U.S.C. 686).
- Taylor Grazing Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1269; U.S.C. 315).
- Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955 (50 Stat. 66; 42 U.S.C. 1856, 1856a).
- Disaster Relief Act of May 22, 1974 (88 Stat. 143; 42 U.S.C. 5121).
- Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of October 29, 1974 (88 Stat. 1535; 15 U.S.C. 2201).
- The Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976 (FLMPA) (Public Law 94-579; 43 U.S.C. 1701).
- Supplemental Appropriation Act of September 10, 1982 (96 Stat. 837).
- 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (Updated in 2001).
- 1998 Departmental Manual 620 Chapter 1, Wildland Fire Management General Policy and Procedures.
- United States Department of the Interior Manual (910 DM 1.3).
- November 2003, "Healthy Forest Restoration Act."
- BLM Manual 9200.

III. Relationship to Land Management Planning/ Fire Policy

A. Policy

The Southern Wyoming Fire Zone Fire Management Plan derives overall program guidance from the following:

- June 1987, “Lander Resource Management Plan Record of Decision.” This RMP was amended to comply with the 1998 Fire Management Implementation Plan for Wyoming. RMP update is scheduled for 2006.
- 1998 BLM Handbook 9200-9219. These sections cover authority, policy, and procedure for all aspects of fire management on public lands administered by the BLM.
- July 1998, “Fire Management Implementation Plan for the BLM-Administered Public Lands in the State of Wyoming.”
- January 2001, “Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.” Referenced at www.nifc.gov/fire_policy/index.htm.
- August 2001, “Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment- 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy.” Referenced at www.fireplan.gov.
- November 2001, “Fire Management Planning.” Referenced at WO-IM-2002-034.
- May 2002, “Collaborative Approach to Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment, 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy- Implementation Plan.”
- August 2002, “Healthy Forests – An Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities.”
- December 2002, “Guidance for Environmental Assessments for Forest Health Projects.”
- June 2003, “Southern Zone Suppression Plan.”
- October 2003, “Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan Guidance for Wildland Fire Management.” Referenced at WO-IM-2004-007.
- 2004 Rawlins RMP (Draft).

B. Resource Management Plan Guidance

Resource Management Plans establish goals, standards, objectives, and/or desired future conditions for public lands and resources. The Rawlins RMP revision is scheduled to be completed in December 2004 and the Lander RMP

revision is to be completed in September 2006. Final RMP decisions will be incorporated into this FMP when the RMPs are completed. General goals, standards, and objectives are:

- Use wildland fire to meet land health standards, maintain and promote greater diversity within plant communities and improve habitat for key wildlife species.
- Maintain and protect air quality to meet or exceed applicable federal and state standards and regulations.
- Maintain and protect cultural landscapes and facilities and archaeological features in accordance with protocol set forth in the RMPs.

Section III. Wildland Fire Management Strategies

A. General Management Considerations

In order to comply with direction provided in current National Fire Plan guidance, the respective RMPs, the Watershed Plan, the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Plans and the Wilderness Study Area Plan; the Southern Wyoming Fire Zone developed the following general wildland fire management guidance. The Southern Wyoming Fire Zone would:

- Use wildland fire to restore and/or sustain ecosystem health based on sound scientific principles and information, balanced with other societal goals, including public health and safety, and air quality.
- Identify appropriate management response (AMR) goals, objectives and constraints by specific Fire Management Units (FMU) within the fire zone. All wildland fire management activities will be managed as described in the FMU guidance outlined in Chapter III.
- Provide an AMR on all wildland fires (with emphasis on minimizing suppression costs) while considering firefighter and public safety and values to be protected consistent with resource objectives, standards and guidelines.
- Meet management goals and objectives through the use of prescribed fires, mechanical treatments, use of wildland fire for resource benefit, chemical treatments, and biological treatments.
- Work collaboratively with communities at risk within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to develop plans for risk reduction. [The Federal Register Notice list is located at: <http://www.fireplan.gov/> and http://www.fireplan.gov/communities_at_risk.cfm and is not totally inclusive of all communities.]

- Work collaboratively with federal, state, county and other local partners to develop seamless management strategies and prioritize agency fire management actions.
- Protect known cultural sites while providing for the opportunity to catalogue additional sites during wildland fire incidents and fuels treatments.
- Employ fire prevention strategies that reduce human ignition with special emphasis in WUI areas, campgrounds, other developed areas and adjacent public lands

B. Wildland Fire Management Goals

The Southern Wyoming Fire Zone will conduct all wildland fire management actions in compliance with the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Policy and the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Policy Update guiding principles. These principles are:

- Firefighter and public safety are the highest priority in every fire management activity.
- Assess risk to communities in terms of direct wildland fire impact and economic values, and implement effective programs to mitigate that risk through collaborative planning and projects.
- Implement the full range of wildland fire and fuels practices. Prescribed fire, the use of wildland fire for resource benefit, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments will be used to move affected landscapes toward the desired future condition as described in the respective RMPs.
- Implement hazardous fuels reduction.
- Establish partnerships with all interagency cooperators to facilitate the coordination of all fire management activities.
- Maintain an efficient and effective organization for the suppression of wildland fires consistent with the values at risk.
- Encourage close coordination and collaboration among BLM specialists within the Southern Wyoming Fire Zone; and among other federal agencies, interested organizations, private landowners, state and local partners.
- Develop and use the best scientific information available to deliver technical and community assistance to support ecological, economic and social sustainability.
- Manage wildland fire so as to protect, maintain and enhance resources, as nearly as possible; allow wildland fire to function in its ecological role when appropriate for the site and situation.
- Create an integrated approach to wildland fire and resource management.

Specific programmatic direction for each FMU of the Southern Wyoming Fire Zone is outlined in Chapter III Section D of this (FMP).

C. Wildland Fire Management Options

The Southern Wyoming Fire Zone will provide an AMR on all wildland fires, with emphasis on firefighter and public safety, resource values to be protected, permanent infrastructure while minimizing suppression costs. Values to be protected would be consistent with resource objectives, standards, and guidelines. Responses to each wildland fire will be initiated in a timely manner and will be based upon established fire management direction as documented in the approved RMPs. The use of AMR will allow land managers to tailor preplanned wildland fire responses to meet objectives established in resource management plans and their associated implementation plans.

D. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit

The FMP establishes geographic areas as FMUs. In this section, the FMP establishes prescriptive criteria and other guidance, which provide additional direction to allow managers to implement the objectives of the RMP and activity-level plans for each FMU.

1. Laramie Range Area FMU – The dominant vegetation in this area is ponderosa pine-mixed conifer over story/sagebrush-grass under story shifting to mostly grass/sagebrush at lower elevations. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
2. Baggs/Platte Valley FMU – The dominant vegetation in this area is sagebrush-steppe with pockets of mixed mountain shrubs, juniper woodlands and aspen stands. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
3. Checkerboard/Scattered Lands FMU – The dominant vegetation in this area is sagebrush-steppe, grassland and other desert shrubs. There are mountainous areas with pine, mixed conifer, aspen and mixed mountain shrubs. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
4. Shirley Basin FMU – The dominant vegetation in this area is sagebrush-steppe and grasslands. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
5. Seminoe/Pedro/Shirley Mountains FMU – This area supports a mosaic of ponderosa, lodgepole and limber pine, mixed conifer, aspen and sagebrush steppe communities. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
6. Green/Crooks Mountains FMU – The dominant vegetation in this area is lodgepole pine and limber pine shifting to mostly sagebrush-steppe at lower elevations. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
7. Sweetwater Valley FMU – This area is composed of scattered pockets of juniper, limber pine, sagebrush steppe and desert shrubs. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
8. Rattlesnake Hills FMU- Dominant vegetation is sagebrush-steppe and other mountain shrubs, juniper and limber pine. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
9. Lander Slope FMU- Dominant vegetation is sagebrush-steppe and mountain shrub, limber and lodgepole pine, juniper, and aspen. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.

10. Copper Mountain FMU- Dominant vegetation components are sagebrush steppe and mountain shrub, juniper and limber pine. AMR for this FMU would emphasize the use of wildland fire for resource benefit.
11. Dubois FMU- Vegetation types range from sagebrush-steppe and desert shrubs to lodgepole pine, limber pine and aspen. AMR for this FMU would most likely result in suppression.
12. Ferris Mountain FMU – This area supports a mix of lodgepole pine, mixed conifer, aspen, mixed mountain shrub, and sagebrush on drier sites and at lower elevations. AMR for this FMU would emphasize the use of wildland fire for resource benefit.
13. Kinney Rim/Adobe Town/Skull Creek FMU – The dominant vegetation in this area is desert shrub/grass and sagebrush steppe. AMR for this FMU would emphasize the use of wildland fire for resource benefit.
14. Great Divide Basin FMU – The dominant vegetation in this area is desert shrub/grass and sagebrush steppe. AMR for this FMU would emphasize the use of wildland fire for resource benefit.

The following sections contain a description of each FMU stating fire management objectives, constraints, and planned actions for that FMU. For all areas below, certain objectives/desired future conditions (DFCs) apply. Any further objectives/DFCs are stated within the specific FMU.

Objectives/Desired Future Conditions for all FMUs

- i) *To restore, protect or enhance the diversity and distribution of healthy, functioning ecosystems consisting of native and desirable vegetation communities through management prescriptions, such as burning, chemical, mechanical, biological, seeding and grazing treatments.*
- ii) *To manage public lands to protect, preserve or enhance threatened and endangered plant and animal species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and unique plant communities.*
- iii) *To control the introduction and proliferation of noxious weeds and non-native plant species and reduce established populations to acceptable levels.*
- iv) *Rehabilitate and restore affected lands, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.*
- v) *Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) will be evaluated on all fuels treatments.*
- vi) *Protect, avoid or mitigate potential damage to heritage resources that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities.*

1. Laramie Range Area FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location - This FMU is located north of Laramie, Wyoming, within the lower Laramie Watershed, in the surrounding foothills/forest fringe of the Laramie Range (Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest). This area totals approximately 496,281 acres encompassing 339,156 private acres, 106,071 BLM acres, 47,908 acres of Wyoming State lands, and 2,729 acres of open water. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands and private lands.

Characteristics – The Laramie Range Area FMU consists of rocky, mountainous terrain. Elevations range from 6,500 to 8,500 feet. The Laramie River with its associated deep cut canyon dissects the area from west to east. The dominant vegetation in this area is ponderosa pine-mixed conifer overstory/sagebrush-grass understory shifting to mostly grass/sagebrush at lower elevations. Cheatgrass has recently expanded in this FMU and is a management concern. Use in this FMU includes livestock grazing, recreation and a large portion of both year round and crucial big game winter range. Air and water quality in the FMU meets National Air Quality standards.

Soils consist of a variety of sandy soil types. Access is limited to four wheel drive vehicles due to the rough and rocky terrain. Many areas are accessed only by foot. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and places which may have traditional cultural significance to Native Americans, are known to occur within this FMU. Some potential site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. This FMU includes critical T&E habitat for the Prebles Jumping Mouse and may contain habitat for Ute Ladies' tresses. Examples of species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list found in the Laramie Range Area FMU include the Ferruginous Hawk, Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike and Laramie Columbine. A complete and up to date list of all species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list is available at the BLM Wyoming State Office and the Wyoming BLM web-site. The FWS is responsible for maintaining the Federal list of Threatened and Endangered Species. There is a significant amount of WUI, in this FMU, due to the land ownership pattern. Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements located on private lands are found throughout the FMU.

Fire History - Lightning caused fires account for the majority of all unplanned ignitions. Most fires occur within fire size classes B and C. On average, one size class D or larger fire occurs annually. Fires are frequent and large fire potential is high due to rough topography, high fuel loading, disease, insect epidemics, and long

distance from Dispatch Location (DL). From 1980 to 2003, approximately 300 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 30,000 burned acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Suppression fires typically occur between June 1 and September 15. Historical weather data indicates that frost can occur above 8,000 feet every month of the year. Maximum temperatures can reach 100 ° F during July and August in the lower elevations. Thunderstorms and associated lightning occur frequently throughout the summer months.

Fire behavior varies from low to moderate intensity surface fire to high intensity wind driven crown fires. On south facing aspects and at lower elevations where ponderosa pine occurs, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 15-25 years. Currently the fire return interval is >50 years. On north-facing aspects and at higher elevations, where lodgepole pine and mixed conifer forest occur, infrequent (100-200 year) stand replacement fires occur. The current fire return in these areas is >100 years.

Fire Regime/Condition Class - Fire regimes in the Laramie Range FMU are I (frequent, low severity), III (less frequent, mixed severity) and IV (less frequent, high severity). Overall condition class within the FMU is 2 (moderately altered from the historical range). Approximately, 500 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 or 3 to condition class 1 or 2. For updates and goals for DFC; see draft Ecosystem Management Plan scheduled for 2010 located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Values at Risk - Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements are located on private lands throughout the FMU. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities are known to exist in this FMU. This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. For updates; see the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Communities at Risk – There is one Community at Risk published in the Federal Registry: the Flying X Ranch. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. This list is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and was printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives - 1) Restore healthy ponderosa pine communities by reducing tree density and basal area through both mechanical reduction and by the reintroduction of fire. 2) Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the

recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 3) Protect WUI communities within the FMU, specifically those homes and structures within the forested types at the higher elevations. 4) Manage rangelands/forests in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003).

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic across the landscape.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Revitalize aspen stands, rejuvenate shrub communities and improve and maintain forest health.
- Construct, improve and maintain fuel breaks associated with improvements on public and private lands.

Post-fire Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Coordinate fuels reduction plans and actions with Communities at Risk, individuals or groups of homeowners/ranchers to significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire within the WUI and thereby enhances public safety.
- Develop risk assessment and fire defense plans for public lands for Communities at risk and WUI areas.

C. Fire Management Strategies

Suppression: AMR would be implemented to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. AMR in this FMU would most likely result in suppression, however, the full range of wildland fire and fuels management practices would remain options. These management practices include utilizing prescribed fire, the use of wildland fire, mechanical, chemical, and

biological treatments. AMR strategies would be tailored to move treated areas towards DFC, but still address areas of critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil instability, WUI and areas of other critical resource constraints such as big game winter range and sage grouse habitat. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FIL) 1-3 will be suppressed at less than 5 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 5 acres 75 percent of the time. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) when possible to limit surface disturbance. A Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack.

Use of Wildland Fire: The Use of Wildland fire for resource benefit is identified as a fire management option within this FMU based on location and time of year of the fire. However, due to land ownership patterns a significant amount of preplanning and coordination would have to occur prior to using wildland fire. Therefore, the use of wildland fire for resource benefit is not likely. A Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) would be completed for all wildland fires managed for resource benefit. For further information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 5,000 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire as a treatment option will include broadcast burning for hazard fuel reduction as well as restoring ecosystem health. The burning of slash piles produced by mechanical operations and timber harvest will also occur within the FMU. Additional fuels treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. The impacts of prescribed burning on air quality are predictable and measurable. Wyoming state air quality regulators will be consulted to assure that proper monitoring of air quality impacts occurs. Additional information concerning the use of prescribed fire is located in National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 5,000 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment: Use hazardous fuels treatments to reverse the declining trend in rangeland/forest health and reduce risk of structure loss in the WUI. Treat areas infested by noxious and invasive weeds when appropriate to allow native perennials to re-establish. Other fuel treatments in these areas may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. Additional information concerning the use of non-fire fuels treatments is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. A portion or all of the 5,000 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives: Work closely with communities, homeowners and ranchers in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

2. Baggs/Platte Valley FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location - This FMU is located south of Rawlins and the checkerboard and is bound on the east by the Snowy Range and on the west by Wyoming Highway 789. This FMU also includes Powder Rim (located west of 789). This area totals approximately 1,049,754 acres, which includes 680,988 private acres, 260,002 BLM acres, 106,668 acres of Wyoming State lands and 1,774 acres of open water. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, private lands and adjoining Forest Service lands.

Characteristics - This FMU consists of rolling hills, large river valleys, mountain foothills, canyons, and sand hills. The Snowy Range makes up the eastern boundary of this FMU and the Sierra Madre Range bisects the FMU north to Miller Hill. Elevation ranges from 6,000 to 8,500 feet. Two major rivers dissect this FMU: the North Platte River and the Little Snake River. The dominant vegetation is sagebrush, mixed mountain shrubs, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, aspen, and juniper. Authorized activities in this FMU include livestock grazing, minerals production (such as oil and gas), commercial timber, recreation, and a large portion of both year round and crucial big game winter range. Air and water quality in the FMU meets national standards.

Soils exhibit a wide variety of depths and textures and vary according to aspect, elevation and moisture. This FMU is accessed by a road network suitable in most places for two wheel drive vehicle traffic. Some areas require a four wheel drive vehicle or travel by foot. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and places which may have traditional cultural significance to Native Americans, are known to occur within this FMU. Some potential site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. This includes the historic J.O. Ranch located in the FMU. The J.O. is one of the few remaining examples of a large historic sheep ranch located on public land. This FMU also includes critical T&E habitat, wilderness values, a wild and scenic river, municipal watershed, numerous developed campgrounds, minerals

developments and both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. T & E species located or potentially located in the FMU include the bald eagle, western boreal toad, yellow billed cuckoo, Ute ladies' tresses, North Platte River species, Colorado River species and migration corridors for Canada lynx. Examples of species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list found in the Baggs/Platte River FMU include the Columbian sharptailed grouse, greater sage-grouse, Ferruginous hawk, Gibbon's beard tongue and numerous fish species. A complete and up to date list of all species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list is available at the BLM Wyoming State Office and the Wyoming BLM web-site. The FWS is responsible for maintaining the Federal list of Threatened and Endangered Species. There is a significant amount of urban interface, in this FMU, due to the land ownership pattern. Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements located on private lands are found throughout the FMU.

Fire History - Most fires in this area are lightning caused, class A through C. On average, one size class D or greater fire occurs every 5 years. Fire frequency is low to moderate except in the juniper woodlands along the Colorado-Wyoming State line west of Baggs where fire frequency is moderate to high. Large fire potential is low to high depending on fuel type, fuel load, fuel moisture, weather, and distance from Dispatch Location (DL). From 1980 to 2003, approximately 300 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 12,000 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Suppression fires typically occur between July 1 and September 10. Historical weather data indicates that frost can occur above 8,000 feet every month of the year. Maximum temperatures can reach 100 ° F during July and August in the lower elevations. Thunderstorms and associated lightning occur frequently throughout the summer months.

Fire behavior varies from low to moderate intensity surface fire to high intensity wind driven crown fires. On lower elevation sites (< 7,000 ft) where Wyoming big sagebrush is the dominate plant species, the fire return interval is 60-110 years. Currently the fire return interval is >100 years. On higher elevation sites (>7,000 ft) where the dominant vegetation is mountain big sagebrush and mixed mountain shrubs, the fire return interval is 40-70 years. Currently, the fire return interval is >70 years. In aspen pockets, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 70-110 years. Aerial photography series over the past 40 years shows a loss of over 50 percent of all aspen in this FMU, and have missed one or more fire return intervals. The fire return interval for ponderosa pine is reported in the literature as 15-25 years with a current return greater than 75 years. For juniper, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 100-400 years. Sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, ponderosa pine and juniper communities are not within their historic fire regimes. Some riparian areas were rated as non-functional during recent Standards and Guidelines assessments due to lack of fire. Mixed conifer and lodgepole pine communities are within their historic fire regime (100-300 years), but continued

encroachment by these species into riparian and aspen communities has led to an overall decline of forest health.

Fire Regime/Condition Class - Fire regimes in the Baggs/Platte Valley FMU are I (frequent, low severity), II (frequent, replacement), III (less frequent, mixed severity) and IV (less frequent, high severity). The general condition class within the FMU is 2 (moderately altered from the historical range) for all shrub types, mixed conifer, lodgepole pine and juniper. Most ponderosa pine and aspen communities are condition class 3. Approximately, 5,000 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 or 3 to condition class 1 or 2. For updates and goals for DFC; see draft Ecosystem Management Plans scheduled for 2006 and 2008 located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Values at Risk - Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements are located on private lands throughout the FMU. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities are known to exist in this FMU. . This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. This FMU also includes Wilderness values, Wild and Scenic Rivers, community watersheds, numerous developed campgrounds, extensive mineral developments (such as oil and gas), habitat for threatened and endangered species and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. For updates; see the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Communities at Risk - There are seven Communities at Risk within or immediately adjacent to the Baggs/Platte Valley FMU that were published in the Federal Registry, the Odd Fellows Campground, Spring Creek, Cow Creek, Sierra Madre Ranch, Skyline Church Camp, French Creek and West Slope Sierra Madre. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. This list is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry. A community protection plan has been initiated in 2004. Refer to RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives - 1) In mixed mountain shrub communities, create and maintain a mosaic of shrub age classes across the landscape. 2) Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 3) Manage aspen stands to increase distribution and improve seral structure. 4) Create a more heterogeneous juniper tree age structure in woodlands through fuels treatments. 5) Manage rangelands/forests in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003).

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)
- Protection of identified resources having relevance and important values

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic across the landscape.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Treatments will be utilized to revitalize aspen stands, rejuvenate shrub communities and to improve and maintain rangeland/forest health.
- Construct, improve and maintain fuel breaks associated with improvements on public and private lands.

Post-fire Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Coordinate fuels reduction plans and actions with Communities at Risk to significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire within the wildland-urban interface and thereby enhance public safety.
- Develop risk assessment and fire defense plan for the public lands for Communities at risk and WUI areas.
- Work closely with homeowners and ranchers in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

C. Fire Management Strategies

Suppression: AMR would be implemented to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. AMR in this FMU would most likely result in suppression, however, the full range of wildland fire and fuels management practices would remain options. These management practices include utilizing prescribed fire, the use of wildland fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments. AMR strategies would be tailored to move treated areas towards DFC, but still address areas of critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil instability, WUI and areas of other critical resource constraints. All fires occurring at FIL 1-3 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 75 percent of the time. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack.

Use of Wildland Fire: The Use of Wildland fire for resource benefit is identified as a fire management option within this FMU based on location and time of year of the fire. However, due to land ownership patterns a significant amount of preplanning and coordination would occur prior to using wildland fire. Therefore, the use of wildland fire is not likely. A WFIP will be completed for all wildland fires that are managed for resource benefit. For further information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 50,000 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire as a treatment option will include broadcast burning for hazard fuel reduction as well as restoring ecosystem health. The burning of slash piles produced by mechanical operations and timber harvest will also occur within the FMU. Additional fuel treatments could be considered as developed in a site-specific plan. The impacts of prescribed burning on air quality are predictable and measurable. Wyoming state air quality regulators will be consulted to assure that proper monitoring of air quality impacts occurs. Additional information concerning the use of prescribed fire is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 50,000 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment: Use hazardous fuels treatments to reverse the declining trend in rangeland/forest health and reduce risk of structure loss in the WUI. Treat areas infested by noxious and invasive weeds when appropriate to allow native perennials to re-establish. Other fuel treatments in these areas may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. Additional information concerning the use of non-fire fuels treatments is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. A portion or all of the 50,000 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives: Work closely with communities, homeowners and ranchers in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

3. Checkerboard/Scattered Land FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location - This large FMU bisects the Rawlins Field Office from east to west and ranges from the Wyoming/Nebraska border west into Sweetwater County. This area totals approximately 6,536,017 acres encompassing 4,644,784 private acres, 1,365,740 BLM acres, 24,011 acres of Wyoming State lands, 6,025 Department of Defense acres, 1,415 Bureau of Reclamation acres, and 24,011 acres of open water. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, DOD lands, BOR lands, adjacent USFS lands and private lands.

Characteristics - Public lands in this large FMU consist of high desert expanses of sagebrush steppe, Atlantic Rim running southwest from Rawlins, a small section of the Platte River Valley, isolated mountains such as Elk Mountain, forest fringe, and grasslands in the east. Elevation ranges from 5,100 to 11,000 feet. The dominate vegetation is sagebrush, desert shrub, mixed mountain shrubs, ponderosa and lodgepole pine, aspen, and juniper. Use in this FMU includes livestock grazing, recreation, a major transportation corridor, oil and gas pipeline corridor, telecommunications corridor, wind energy development, communication facilities, mineral developments, coal leases and a large portion of both year round and crucial big game winter range. Air and water quality in the FMU meet national standards.

Soils exhibit a wide variety of depths and textures and vary according to parent material, aspect, elevation and moisture. This FMU is accessed by a road network suitable in most places for two wheel drive vehicle traffic. Many areas will require a four wheel drive vehicle or travel by foot. . Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and places which may have traditional cultural significance to Native Americans, are known to occur within this FMU. Some potential site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements located on private lands are found throughout the FMU. Located in the FMU are numerous mineral developments, several major transportation corridors, several major energy transmission lines, oil and gas pipelines, and major communication lines. This FMU also includes critical T&E habitat, municipal watersheds and both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. T & E and candidate species located or potentially located in the FMU include the bald eagle, western boreal toad, Ute ladies' tresses, North Platte River species, Wyoming toad, Prebles meadow jumping mouse, Colorado butterfly plant, black footed ferret, black tailed prairie dogs and migration corridors for Canada lynx. Examples of species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list found in the Checkerboard/scattered lands FMU include the mountain plover, greater sage grouse, ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl. A complete and up to date list of all species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list is available at the BLM

Wyoming State Office and the Wyoming BLM web-site. The FWS is responsible for maintaining the Federal list of Threatened and Endangered Species. There is a significant amount of WUI, in this FMU, due to the land ownership pattern. Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements located on private lands are found throughout the FMU.

Fire History - Fire frequency in this FMU is low except in the Interstate 80/Railroad corridor and near oil and gas fields where fire frequency is moderate to high. Fires along travel routes and near developments are mostly human caused, while fires elsewhere are natural. The typical fire sizes are class A and B. On average, one size class D or larger fire occurs every 2 years. Large fire potential is low to high depending on fuel type, fuel load, weather, and distance from DL. From 1980 to 2003, approximately 320 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 11,000 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Suppression fires typically occur between June 15 and September 10. Historical weather data indicates that frost can occur above 8,000 feet every month of the year. Maximum temperatures can reach 100 ° F during July and August in the lower elevations. Thunderstorms and associated lightning occur frequently throughout the summer months.

Fire behavior varies from low to moderate intensity surface fires to high intensity wind driven crown fires. On lower elevation sites in the east where short grass prairie dominates, the fire return interval is 3-12 years. Currently, the fire return interval is 20+ years. On lower elevation sites (< 7,000 ft) where Wyoming big sagebrush and desert shrub dominate, the fire return interval is 60-110 years and >100 years respectively. Currently the fire return interval is >100 years for both types. On higher elevation sites (>7,000 ft) where the dominant vegetation is mountain big sagebrush and mixed mountain shrubs, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 50-70 years, with a current return interval of >70 years. In mixed conifer and lodgepole pine communities, the fire return intervals reported in the literature is 100 to 300 years. In general these communities are within their historic fire regime, but have not been burned in many years. Where ponderosa pine occurs, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 15-25 years with a current return interval greater than 50 years.

Fire Regime/Condition Class - Fire regimes in the Checkerboard FMU are I (frequent low severity), II (frequent, stand replacement), III (less frequent, mixed severity) and IV (less frequent, stand replacement). General condition class within the FMU is 2 (moderately altered from the historical range) for all grassland, shrub types, juniper and aspen. Most ponderosa pine communities are in Condition Class 3. Condition class for lodgepole pine and mixed conifer sites is 1. Approximately, 6,000 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 or 3 to condition class 1 or 2. Updates

and goals for DFC; see draft Ecosystem Management Plan scheduled for 2008 located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Values at Risk - Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements are located on private lands throughout the FMU. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities are known to exist in this FMU. . This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. Located in the FMU are numerous mineral developments, several major transportation corridors, several major energy transmission lines, oil and gas pipelines, and major communication lines. This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. For updates; see the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Communities at Risk – - There are 23 Communities at Risk within or immediately adjacent to the Checkerboard/Scattered Land FMU that were published in the Federal Registry, Oberg Pass, Aspen Highlands Estates, Corner Mountain Estates, Centennial, Albany, Mountain Meadow, Woods Landing Leases, Jelm Mountain Ranches, Boulder Ridge Estates, The Briar Patch, Saw Pine Cow Camp, Fish Creek, Rockaway Ranch, Ames Monument Ranches, Harriman, Remount, Crystal Lake, Granite Springs, Curt Gowdy, Pine Grove Estates, Pine Bluff, Aspen Country, and Woodedge. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU and is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry. Refer to the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office for updates.

B. Fire Management Objectives - 1) Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 2) In mixed mountain shrub communities, create and maintain a mosaic of shrub age classes across the landscape. 3) Manage aspen stands to increase distribution and improve seral structure. 4) Manage rangelands/forests in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003).

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic across the landscape.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Treatments will be utilized to revitalize aspen stands, rejuvenate shrub communities and to improve and maintain rangeland/forest health.
- Construct, improve and maintain fuel breaks associated with improvements on public and private lands.

Post-fire Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Coordinate fuels reduction plans and actions with Communities at Risk to significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic wildland fire within the WUI and to lower the risk to public safety.
- Develop risk assessment and fire defense plan for the public lands for Communities at risk and WUI areas.
- Work closely with communities, homeowners and ranches in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

C. Fire Management Strategies

Suppression: AMR would be implemented to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. AMR in this FMU would most likely result in suppression, however, the full range of wildland fire and fuels management practices would remain options. These management practices include utilizing prescribed fire, the use of wildland fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments. AMR strategies would be tailored to move treated areas towards DFC, but still address areas of critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil instability, WUI and areas of other critical resource constraints. All fires occurring at FIL 1-3 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 75 percent of the time. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack.

Use of Wildland Fire: The Use of Wildland fire for resource benefit is identified as a fire management option within this FMU based on location and time of year of the fire. However, due to land ownership patterns a significant amount of preplanning and coordination would occur prior to using wildland fire. Therefore, the use of wildland fire for resource benefit is not likely. A WFIP would be completed for all wildland fires that are managed for resource benefit. For further information on the

use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 60,000 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire as a treatment option will include broadcast burning for hazard fuel reduction as well as restoring ecosystem health. The burning of slash piles produced by mechanical operations and timber harvest will also occur within the FMU. Additional fuel treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. The impacts of prescribed burning on air quality are predictable and measurable. Wyoming state air quality regulators will be consulted to assure that proper monitoring of air quality impacts occurs. Additional information concerning the use of prescribed fire is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 60,000 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment: Use hazardous fuels treatments to reverse the declining trend in rangeland/forest health and reduce risk of structure loss in the WUI. Treat areas infested by noxious and invasive weeds when appropriate to allow native perennials to re-establish. Other fuel treatments in these areas may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. Additional information concerning the use of non-fire fuels treatments is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. A portion or all of the 60,000 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives: Work closely with communities, homeowners and ranchers in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

4. Shirley Basin FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location - This FMU is located north of Medicine Bow in the north-central part of the Rawlins Field Office and extends west out of Shirley Basin along the northern border of the field office. This area totals approximately 328,957 acres encompassing 86,570 private acres, 210,701 BLM acres, and 31,685 acres of Wyoming State lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, and private lands.

Characteristics - The dominate topography in this FMU is a flat basin with granite outcrops to the west. Elevation ranges from 6,700 to 8,100 feet. The dominate vegetation is grass, ponderosa pine, juniper and sagebrush. Use in this FMU includes livestock grazing, recreation, and a year round and crucial big game winter range. Air and water quality in the FMU meet national standards.

Soils exhibit a wide variety of depths and textures and vary according to parent material, aspect, elevation and moisture. The western half of the FMU is composed of granitic soils, while the eastern half is mostly sandy clay to sandy loams and relatively shallow except in the drainages. This FMU is accessed by a road network suitable in most places for two wheel drive vehicle traffic. Some areas will require a four wheel drive vehicle or travel by foot. . Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and places which may have traditional cultural significance to Native Americans, are known to occur within this FMU. Some potential site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements located on private lands are found in a few places in the FMU. This FMU also includes critical T&E habitat, and both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. T & E and candidate species located or potentially located in the FMU include the Ute ladies' tresses and black footed ferret. Examples of species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list found in the Shirley Basin FMU include the greater sage-grouse, mountain plover, white tailed prairie dogs and swift fox. A complete and up to date list of all species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list is available at the BLM Wyoming State Office and the Wyoming BLM web-site. The FWS is responsible for maintaining the Federal list of Threatened and Endangered Species. There is small amount of urban interface, in this FMU, due to the land ownership pattern. Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements located on private lands are found throughout the FMU but most are located west of WYO 77.

Fire History - Fire frequency in this FMU is low. Most fires are natural ignitions in size class A or B. On average, one size class D or larger fire occurs every 10 years. Large fire potential is low due to low fuel loads and natural fuel breaks. From 1980 to 2003, approximately 30 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 75 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Suppression fires typically occur between June 1 and September 1. Historical weather data indicates that frost can occur above 8,000 feet every month of the year. Maximum temperatures can reach 100 ° F during July and August in the lower elevations. Thunderstorms and associated lightning occur frequently throughout the summer months.

Fire behavior varies from low to moderate intensity surface fire to high intensity wind driven crown fires. On lower elevation sites (< 7,000 ft) where Wyoming big sagebrush dominate, the fire return interval is 60-110 years and with a current frequency >100 years. On higher elevation sites (>7,000 ft) where the dominant vegetation is ponderosa pine, juniper and mixed mountain shrubs, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 20-50 years, with a current return interval >70 years. Evidence of anthropogenic burning is also present in the FMU.

Fire Regime/Condition Class - Fire regimes in Shirley Basin are III (less frequent, mixed severity) and IV (less frequent, stand replacement). Condition class within the FMU is 2 (moderately altered from the historical range) for all types. Approximately, 500 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 to condition class 1. For updates and goals for DFC; see draft Ecosystem Management Plan scheduled for 2009 located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Values at Risk - Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements are located on private lands in isolated locations in the FMU. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities are known to exist in this FMU. . This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. For updates; see the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Communities at Risk – There are no identified Communities at Risk in this FMU. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU and is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives – 1) Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 2) In mixed mountain shrub communities, create and maintain a mosaic of shrub age classes across the landscape. 3) Manage rangelands/forests in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003).

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic across the landscape.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Treatments will be utilized to revitalize aspen stands, rejuvenate shrub communities and to improve and maintain forest health.
- Construct, improve and maintain fuel breaks associated with improvements on public and private lands.

Post-fire Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Coordinate fuels reduction plans and actions with individuals or groups of homeowners/ranchers to significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire within the WUI and to lower the risk to public safety.

C. Fire Management Strategies

Suppression: AMR would be implemented to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. AMR in this FMU would most likely result in suppression, however, the full range of wildland fire and fuels management practices would remain as options. AMR in the area between Wyoming State Highways 77 and 487 would emphasize the use of wildland fire for resource benefit. These management practices include utilizing prescribed fire, the use of wildland fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments. AMR strategies would be tailored to move treated areas towards DFC, but still address areas of critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil instability, WUI and areas of other critical resource constraints. All fires occurring at FIL 1-3 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 75 percent of the time. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack.

Use of Wildland Fire: Use of Wildland fire for resource benefit is identified as a fire management option within this FMU based on location and time of year of the fire. The area identified as where the use of wildland fire would most likely occur is between Wyoming State Highways 77 and 487. However, due to land ownership patterns outside the area between Wyoming State Highways 77 and 487 a significant amount of preplanning and coordination would occur prior to using wildland fire. Therefore, the use of wildland fire is not likely to occur in those areas. A WFIP will be completed for all wildland fires that are managed for resource benefit. For further

information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 5,000 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire as a treatment option will include broadcast burning for hazard fuel reduction as well as restoring ecosystem health. Burning slash piles produced by mechanical operations and timber harvest will also occur within the FMU. Additional fuel treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. The impacts of prescribed burning on air quality are predictable and measurable. Wyoming state air quality regulators will be consulted to assure that proper monitoring of air quality impacts occurs. Additional information concerning the use of prescribed fire is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 5,000 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment: Use hazardous fuels treatments to reverse the declining trend in rangeland/forest health and reduce risk of structure loss in the WUI. Treat areas infested by noxious and invasive weeds when appropriate to allow native perennials to re-establish. Other fuel treatments in these areas may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. Additional information concerning the use of non-fire fuels treatments is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. A portion or all of the 5,000 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives: Work closely with homeowners and ranchers in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

5. Seminoe/Pedro/Shirley Mountains FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location - This FMU is located in the mountains adjacent to the North Platte River and its reservoirs in the north central part of the Rawlins Field Office. This area totals approximately 322,520 acres encompassing 106,150 private acres, 139,804 BLM acres, 15,438 acres of Wyoming State lands, 2,143 acres of FWS lands, 27,798

acres of BOR lands and 31,185 acres of open water. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, FWS lands, BOR lands, and private lands.

Characteristics - This FMU consists of rocky, mountainous terrain and rolling hills. Elevations range from 6,500 to 8,700 feet. The North Platte River with its associated deep cut canyon dissects the area from south to north. The dominant vegetation in this FMU is ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, limber pine, sagebrush, mountain shrub, mixed conifer, juniper and aspen. Use in this FMU includes mineral extraction, energy production, livestock grazing, recreation, and both year round and crucial big game winter range. Air and water quality in the FMU meet national standards.

Soils exhibit a wide variety of depths and textures and vary according to parent material, aspect, elevation and moisture. The majority of the soils are granitic in nature and relatively shallow except in drainages. Access is limited to four wheel drive vehicles due to the rough and rocky terrain. Many areas are accessed only by foot. . Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and places which may have traditional cultural significance to Native Americans, are known to occur within this FMU. Some potential site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. This FMU also includes critical T&E habitat, wilderness values, watershed values, an ACEC, numerous developed camp grounds, power generation facilities, and both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. The Bennett Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) was not recommended for wilderness designation in the 1992 report to Congress. Morgan Creek, a protected watershed, is found within this FMU. A hibernaculum, the Shirley Mountain Bat Cave ACEC, is unique to this FMU. T & E and candidate species located or potentially located in the FMU include the Ute ladies' tresses, bald eagle, North Platte River species, blowout penstemon and black footed ferret. Examples of species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list found in the Seminoe/Pedro/Shirley Mountains FMU include the Laramie Plains false sagebrush, fringed myotis, spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and long eared myotis. A complete and up to date list of all species on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list is available at the BLM Wyoming State Office and the Wyoming BLM web-site. The FWS is responsible for maintaining the Federal list of Threatened and Endangered Species. There is a significant amount of WUI in this FMU due to the land ownership pattern. Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements located on private lands are found throughout the FMU.

Fire History - Fire frequency is moderate to high. Most fires in this area are lightning ignited and class sizes B and C. On average, one size class D or larger fire occurs every 5 years. Large fire potential is moderate to high due to rough topography, high fuel loading, diseases, insect epidemics and long distance from DL. In the years 1980 through 2003 approximately 150 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of

2,500 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Suppression fires typically occur between June 1 and September 1. Historical weather data indicates that frost can occur above 8,000 feet every month of the year. Maximum temperatures can reach 100 ° F during July and August in the lower elevations. Thunderstorms and associated lightning occur frequently throughout the summer months.

Fire behavior varies from low to moderate intensity surface fire to high intensity wind driven crown fires. On lower elevation sites (< 7,000 ft) where Wyoming big sagebrush dominate, the fire return interval is 60-110 years with a current fire return interval of >100 years. On higher elevation sites (>7,000 ft) where the dominant vegetation is mixed mountain shrubs, juniper, limber and ponderosa pine, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 15-25 years. Currently, the fire return interval is >50 years. In mixed conifer and lodgepole pine communities, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 100 to 300 years. In general, these communities are within their historic fire regime but have not burned in many years. In aspen pockets, the fire return interval reported in the literature is 70-110 years. In general these communities are in poor condition due to conifer encroachment and disease and are in need of the return of fire in the near future. Limber pine and lodgepole pine communities are also experiencing a high mortality due to disease and insects. Evidence of anthropogenic burning is also present in the FMU.

Fire Regime/Condition Class - Fire regimes in the Seminoe/Pedro/Shirley Mountains FMU are I (frequent low severity), III (less frequent, mixed severity) and IV (less frequent, stand replacement). General condition class within the FMU is 2 (moderately altered from the historical range) for all shrub types, ponderosa pine, juniper and aspen. Condition class for limber pine is 3, as are some stands of lodgepole, but with most lodgepole pine and mixed conifer sites rated as a 1. Approximately, 1,000 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 or 3 to condition class 1 or 2. For updates and goals for DFC; see draft Ecosystem Management Plan scheduled for 2007 located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Values at Risk - Homes, ranch buildings and other improvements are located on private lands throughout the FMU. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities are known to exist in this FMU. . This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. This FMU also includes wilderness values, habitat for threatened and endangered species, commercial timber stands, an ACEC (hibernaculum), a protected watershed (Morgan Creek), several developed camp grounds, hydroelectric power generation facilities, major energy transmission lines, mineral developments, and contains both year-round

and crucial winter range for big game. For updates, see the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office.

Communities at Risk - - There are two Communities at Risk within the Seminoe/Pedro/Shirley Mountains FMU, Kortez Dam Camp and Seminoe Reservoir. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU and is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office for updates.

B. Fire Management Objectives - 1) In mixed mountain shrub communities, create and maintain a mosaic of shrub age classes across the landscape. 2) Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 3) Manage aspen stands to increase distribution and improve seral structure. 4) To restore healthy ponderosa pine communities by reducing tree density and basal area through both mechanical reduction and by the reintroduction of fire. 5) Manage all rangelands/forests in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003).

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)
- Protection of identified resources having relevance and important values.

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic across the landscape.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Treatments will be utilized to revitalize aspen and ponderosa pine, rejuvenate shrub communities and to improve and maintain rangeland/forest health.
- Construct, improve and maintain fuel breaks associated with improvements on public and private lands.

Post-fire Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Coordinate fuels reduction plans and actions with Communities at Risk to significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire within the WUI and thereby enhances public safety.
- Develop risk assessment and fire defense plan for the public lands for Communities at risk and WUI areas.
- Work closely with communities, homeowners, other federal agencies and ranches in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

C. Fire Management Strategies

Suppression: AMR would be implemented to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. AMR in this FMU would most likely result in suppression, however, the full range of wildland fire and fuels management practices would remain options. AMR in the Bennett Mountain WSA would emphasize the use of wildland fire for resource benefit. These management practices include utilizing prescribed fire, the use of wildland fire, mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments. AMR strategies would be tailored to move treated areas towards DFC, but still address areas of critical habitat for T&E species, areas of soil instability, WUI and areas of other critical resource constraints. All fires occurring at FIL 1-3 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at FIL 4-6 will be suppressed at less than 10 acres 75 percent of the time. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack.

Use of Wildland Fire: Use of wildland fire for resource benefit is identified as a fire management option with this FMU based on location and time of year of the fire. The area identified as where the use of wildland fire would most likely occur is the Bennett Mountain WSA. However, due to the small size of the WSA and land ownership patterns outside the WSA, a significant amount of preplanning and coordination would occur prior to using wildland fire. Therefore, the use of wildland fire is not likely to occur. A WFIP will be completed for all wildland fires that are managed for resource benefit. For further information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 10,000 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire as a treatment option will include broadcast burning for hazard fuel reduction as well as restoring ecosystem health. The burning of slash piles produced by mechanical operations and timber harvest will also occur within the FMU. Additional fuel treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. The impacts of prescribed burning on air quality are predictable and measurable.

Wyoming state air quality regulators will be consulted to assure that proper monitoring of air quality impacts occurs. Additional information concerning the use of prescribed fire is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 10,000 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment: Use hazardous fuels treatments to reverse the declining trend in rangeland/forest health and reduce risk of structure loss in the WUI. Treat areas infested by noxious and invasive weeds when appropriate to allow native perennials to re-establish. Other fuel treatments in these areas may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. Additional information concerning the use of non-fire fuels treatments is located in NFPORS and the RAMS document located at the Rawlins Field Office. A portion or all of the 10,000 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives: Work closely with homeowners and ranchers in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

6. Green and Crooks Mountain FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location: This FMU is centrally located in the Southern Wyoming Fire Management Zone and in the southern portion of Fremont County. This area totals approximately 284,435 acres encompassing 21,049 private acres, 240,446 public acres, and 22,927 acres of Wyoming State lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands and private lands.

Landscape and General Vegetation Characteristics: The Green and Crooks Mountain FMU is dominated by an east to west oriented mountain range and surrounding foothills. Elevations range from 6,500 feet to 9,000 feet. Dominant vegetation types vary with elevation and location. Drier vegetation types at the lower elevations are Wyoming big sagebrush and bunchgrasses with riparian vegetation in the wet areas and limber pine on north and east exposures. Mid-elevation sites are dominated by Wyoming/ mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, mixed mountain shrubs, limber pine, aspen, and bunchgrasses. Higher elevation sites are generally timbered with limber

pine, lodgepole, Douglas fir and aspen with inclusions of sagebrush/mixed mountain shrub parks. Air and water quality in the FMU meet National Air/Water Quality standards.

Soils are a mixture of alluvium and residuum from various sources, including shale and sandstone. Higher elevations are dominated by well-drained, loamy, cobbly or gravelly soils. Mid and lower elevation soils found on terraces, fan aprons, hills and ridges are well-drained and loamy to gravelly in texture. Soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect. There is limited but widespread access throughout the FMU. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. This FMU has important wildlife habitat for elk, deer, moose, raptors and has a number of waterways that are important fisheries and habitat for beaver. There is one ACEC within the FMU, with one section on the north side of Crooks Mountain that is approximately 2,700 acres and the other section on the north side of Green Mountain that is approximately 15,250 acres. This ACEC is for elk winter range and the Sparhawk Cabin.

Fire History: Between 1980-2003, there were approximately 30 fire starts within this FMU for a total of 850 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid- 1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Equipment caused starts accounted for the largest acreages burnt, with sizes between the C and E, while lightning and miscellaneous fire start causes accounted for burn acreages between the B and C size classes. Within this time frame, the West Cottonwood fire (1995) occurred. This human-caused fire was 400 acres (396 BLM) in size. Another fire that occurred in this FMU was the Arapahoe Fire (2002) on the south side of Crooks Mountain. This fire was human-caused and 356 acres (231 BLM). Most lightning-caused fires in the FMU remain small due to rainfall typically associated with these storms. The average fire season in this FMU runs between July 15th and September 30th. On average, two class B fires occur annually. The potential for fires in the E to F size classes exists within this FMU, as fuel types and long term fire ecology of the area indicates that fires of this size probably occurred periodically, especially within the forested communities at the higher elevations. In addition, stand health due to old-age, insect infestation, disease and poor historic forestry practices contributes to a higher large fire potential.

Temperatures within the FMU can exceed 100°F during the fire season (6/1-9/30), but that extreme would be limited to the lower elevation areas. Higher elevation areas in the forested fuel types generally will not exceed 85°F during the fire season.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: The Green Mountain/Crooks Mountain FMU has been given ratings of Fire Regime IV (less frequent, stand replacement) and Condition Class of 2-3 (moderately to significantly altered from historic range) for timbered communities dominated by lodgepole pine and limber pine/juniper and a rating of Fire Regime III (less frequent, mixed severity) and Condition Class 2 (moderately altered from historic range) for mountain shrub, big sagebrush and lower elevation limber pine/juniper plant communities. Approximately, 150 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 or 3 to condition class 1 or 2.

Values at Risk: Primary values to be protected are mountain shrub habitat, aspen habitat, and forested communities. Habitat associated with big game species and other wildlife species should be maintained and enhanced. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities are known to exist in the FMU. This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. Oil and gas developments exist on Crooks Mountain.

Communities at Risk: Seasonal homes and campground facilities on Green Mountain. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. This list is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and was printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives: 1) Provide a mosaic of age classes in the sagebrush/mountain shrub and aspen vegetation types. Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 2) Protect WUI, cabins and facilities within the FMU, specifically those homes and structures within the forested types at the higher elevations of the FMU. 3) Reduce hazardous fuels caused by insect-infestation and over-mature timber stands in the higher elevation areas. 4) Manage rangelands/forests in accordance with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003). 5) Protection, avoidance or mitigation of heritage resources that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities.

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Use prescribed fire to create a vegetative mosaic across the landscape and maintain natural openings in the mountain shrub habitat within the FMU.

Emphasis on the mountain shrub (mountain sagebrush, bitterbrush, snowberry, buckbrush and other associated shrubs) communities and marginal timbered communities, including areas where there is declining health of aspen stands.

Non-fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Multi-year staged treatments (primarily mechanical treatments) will be utilized to revitalize aspen stands and to improve and maintain forest health in conifer-timbered communities.

Post-fire Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildfires will be initiated to allow reestablishment of native plant communities and to stabilize erosive soil conditions on a case by case basis.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Coordinate fuels reduction plans and actions with private land and homeowners to significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire within the WUI and thereby enhances public safety.

C. Fire Management Strategies

Suppression: AMR would be implemented to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. The priority for this FMU is to prevent wildland fires from spreading to private lands, especially private lands with seasonal homes and structures. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack. Cottonwood Campground (T28N R91W S. 34 NE1/4NE1/4) and the Sparhawk Cabin (T28N R91W S. 32 SW1/4 of SE1/4) will be high priority protection areas. When suppression of the fire is determined to be the best management option, in areas of mixed conifer and aspen, attempt to contain fires occurring at FIL 1-4 at 5 acres or less 90% of the time and on fires occurring at FIL 5-6, contain fires at 50 acres or less, 75% of the time. In areas dominated by Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush at FIL 1-4, attempt to contain the fire at 20 acres or less 90% of the time and on fires occurring at FIL 5-6 contain at 100 acres or less 70% of the time.

Use of Wildland Fire: The Use of Wildland fire for resource benefit is identified as a fire management option within this FMU based on location and time of year of the fire. A WFIP would be completed for all wildland fires managed for resource benefit. For further information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 1,500 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Over the next ten years, treatments will be implemented within the mountain shrub and marginal timber communities of the FMU to improve wildlife

habitat, create openings in vegetation communities with conifer encroachment, restore aspen stands that are decadent and in declining health and to reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI. All future fuels treatments would be considered as needed by a site-specific plan. The impacts of prescribed burning on air quality are predictable and measurable. Wyoming state air quality regulators will be consulted to assure that proper monitoring of air quality impacts occurs. In addition, treatments using both broadcast and pile burning will be necessary to maintain and sustain forest health in the future. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 1,500 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-fire Fuels Treatments: Over the next ten years, treatments will be implemented to achieve the goal of improving forest health, aspen regeneration and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildland fire within the timbered communities on Green Mountain. A portion or all of the 1,500 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Restoration and rehabilitation will emphasize the re-establishment and perpetuation of habitat diversity and ecosystem health on a case by case basis. Site specific projects will be considered to meet the objectives as identified in the RMP.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives: Work closely with homeowners to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

Complete the Green Mountain Risk Assessment and Fire Defense Plan in 2005.

7. Sweetwater Valley FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location: This FMU is located in the center of the Lander Field Office and is bisected east to west by the Sweetwater River valley. The Beaver Rim uplift runs southwest to northeast across the FMU. The FMU totals approximately 2,108,950 acres encompassing 329,096 private acres, 1,596,391 acres of public land, 1,280 DOD acres, 6,805 BOR acres and 171,065 acres of Wyoming State lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, other federal agency lands and private lands.

Characteristics: This FMU consists almost entirely of sagebrush-grass rangelands with limited acreages of non-commercial forest lands. The Sweetwater River is the principal river system that is within this FMU. The Sweetwater Rocks WSA Complex is within this FMU. It is made up of the Split Rock, Miller Springs, Lankin Dome, and Savage Peak WSAs. The Complex encompasses 32,575 acres. This WSA was

not recommended as suitable for wilderness status in the 1992 report to Congress. Another WSA, Sweetwater Canyon WSA, is located in the southern part of the FMU. This WSA encompasses 9,056 acres, of which 5,538 acres were recommended for wilderness designation in the 1992 report to Congress. This FMU is considered to be accessible due to the number of roads and the terrain that is present. Elevations range from 4800 - 8200 feet. The dominant shrub vegetation type within this FMU is Wyoming big sagebrush. Trees species include juniper, limber pine and aspen, but these species are found in limited areas. Use of this FMU includes livestock grazing, oil and gas leasing, and recreation. Approximately 37,000 acres of ACEC land exist in this FMU. Resource emphasis includes: greater sage grouse habitat, rare plants, raptors, and significant historic sites and segments along the Oregon/Mormon Pioneer Trails Corridor. Populations of the Desert Yellowhead, a threatened plant species, are found on Beaver Rim. This FMU has important wildlife habitat for antelope, mule deer, and Greater sage grouse. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. Soils within this FMU are extremely variable. Floodplains, terraces, ridges and hills generally have well-drained loamy and gravelly soils. Certain floodplains, low terraces and drainages within the FMU have poorly drained loamy and sandy soils. There are well-drained loamy and sandy soils on fan aprons and dunes. Soils are derived from eolian, residuum and alluvium deposits derived from shale and sandstone. Soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect.

Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.

Fire History: Lightning caused fires account for the majority of all ignitions. Predominant fire size classes are B and C. On average, five size class B fires occur annually. From 1980 to 2003, approximately 120 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 5800 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Fires normally occur from July 1 thru September 30. Maximum temperatures can reach 100°F during July and August in the lower elevations. Fire behavior ranges from moderate to extreme and fire sizes have historically been small due to the lack of continuous fuels. Two large fires occurred, the Cottonwood fire (2000), 250 acres (250 acres BLM) and Beaver Rim fire (2001), 1,927 acres (1,704 acres BLM). The Cottonwood fire was in juniper/sagebrush fuels and was wind driven. The Beaver Rim fire was in heavy densities of sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush and was wind driven. Another large fire that occurred was the Conant Fire (1994), 393 acres (348 acres BLM). This fire was in sagebrush/grass and was also wind driven.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: This FMU has ratings of Fire Regime of III (less frequent and mixed severity) and Condition Class of 2 (moderately altered from historic range) for the big sagebrush plant communities and Fire Regime IV (less frequent and stand replacement) and Condition Class 2 (moderately altered from historic range) for juniper, limber pine and aspen-dominated plant communities within this FMU. Approximately, 2,000 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 to condition class 1.

Values at Risk: Primary values to be protected consist of grazing, range improvements, oil and gas developments, wildlife habitat, and some private and state lands intermingled within this FMU and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities that are known to exist in the FMU. This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range big game. For updates; see the RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

Communities at Risk: Currently, no communities at risk have been identified within this FMU (as listed in the Federal Register). The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. This list is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and was printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives: 1) Promote plant species and age class diversity. 2) Maintain and improve plant community diversity and composition. Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 3) Improve mule deer habitat. 4) Prevent fire spread from public lands onto private lands unless an agreement is in place with the landowner(s). 5) Protection, avoidance or mitigation of heritage resources that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities.

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Allow fire use to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role.

- Use of prescribed fire is desired to re-introduce fire into the ecosystem.
- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic across the landscape.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Chemical and various methods of mechanical treatments are planned for implementation within this FMU over the next ten years to improve sagebrush-grassland health and to allow greater water infiltration into the soil.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- There are no identified communities at risk in this FMU.

C. Fire Management Strategies:

Suppression: Use AMR to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. AMR strategy priorities would address Sweetwater Rocks WSA Complex, Sweetwater River WSA, resource concerns and preventing wildland fire spread to intermingled private lands. In the Miller Springs WSA, there is a trapper cabin (T30N, R89W, Section 32, SW1/4NE1/4) that would have a high priority to be saved. Martin's Cove (T29N, R89W, NE1/4) will also be a high priority for fire protection, as this is an area of high visitation. There are also significant historic and prehistoric sites in this FMU which require protection from wildfire and/or related events or activities, such as stage stops, homesteads, historic inscription localities, and prehistoric rock art panels. When suppression of the fire is determined to be the best management option, attempt to contain fires occurring at FIL 1-4 at 10 acres or less 90% of the time. On fires occurring at FIL 5-6, attempt to contain the fire at 400 acres or less 75% of the time. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack.

Use of Wildland Fire: Use of Wildland fire for resource benefit is an identified fire management option within this FMU. A WFIP will be completed for all wildland fires that are managed for resource benefit. For further information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 20,000 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Treatments will be implemented over the next ten years within the sagebrush-grassland and marginal timbered communities of this FMU. Broadcast burning will be used with the objectives of hazard fuel reduction, restoration of ecosystem health and improving Greater sage grouse habitat. Fuels treatments that are in addition to those already identified will be considered on an as needed basis or in conjunction with neighboring landowners. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 20,000 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatments: Mechanical treatments will be implemented over the next ten years to improve the health of sagebrush-grassland plant communities and to improve Greater sage grouse habitat. A portion or all of the 20,000 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

*There are treatments within this FMU that may be implemented over the next ten years which have an option of using prescribed fire or mechanical methods of treatment.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Post-fire rehabilitation and restoration of wildland fires would be initiated, if necessary, to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure.

Community Protection/Community Assistance: Currently, there are no identified communities at risk within this FMU(as listed in the Federal Register).

8. Rattlesnake Hills FMU

Location: This FMU is located north of the Sweetwater River and east of the Sweetwater FMU. The area totals approximately 168,493 acres encompassing 39,241 acres of private land, 11,755 acres of Wyoming State lands and 117,495 acres of public lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands and private lands.

Characteristics: This FMU consists almost entirely of rangelands with limited acreages of woodlands. This FMU is considered to have limited access due to steep slopes and rock outcrops. Some areas have foot access only. Elevations range from 5900 - 8000 feet. The dominant shrub vegetation type within this FMU is Wyoming big sagebrush. Trees species include juniper, limber pine and aspen, but these species are found in limited areas. Important wildlife species in this area are elk, mule deer, Greater sage grouse, and some fisheries. Use of this FMU includes livestock grazing, oil and gas leasing, and recreation. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities,

historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. A portion of the Oregon-Mormon Pioneer Trail cuts through the southeast part of this FMU. Soil characteristics vary depending upon location within the Rattlesnake Hills FMU. Approximately half of the unit is loamy slopewash alluvium and residuum derived from limestone that is loamy in texture and moderately deep. The other significant soils component within the unit, usually found on steeper slopes (15-65% slope), is residuum derived from limestone that is cobbly loam in texture and shallow to very shallow in depth. The hazard of water erosion is very high within the FMU. In general, soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect. Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.

Fire History: Fire activity within this FMU is low. From 1980-2003, approximately 20 fires were reported for a total 7,200 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Suppression fires normally occur from July 1 thru September 14. Historical weather data indicates that frost can occur above 7000' during the spring and fall seasons. Maximum temperatures can reach 100°F during July and August in the lower elevations. For most fires, the fire behavior has been low and fire size has been small due to the lack of continuous fuels and the fuel model in which the fires occur. Some potential exists for large fires in this FMU. One large fire that did occur in recent years was the Goat Mountain fire in 1985. This fire burned approximately 7,000 acres.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: This FMU has a Fire Regime of III (mixed severity and less frequent occurrence) and Condition Class of 2 (moderately altered from historic fire regime) from big sagebrush communities and a Fire Regime III (mixed severity and less frequent occurrence) and Condition Class 2 (moderately altered from historic fire regime) for juniper, limber pine and aspen-dominated communities. Approximately, 1,200 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 to condition class 1.

Values at Risk: Primary values to be protected consist of grazing, range improvements, oil and gas developments, wildlife habitat, and some private and state lands intermingled within this FMU and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities that are known to exist in the FMU. This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. For updates; see the RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

Communities at Risk: No communities at risk (as listed on the Federal Register) have been identified within this FMU; however, a WUI buffer area exists. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. This list is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and was printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives: 1) Promote plant species and age class diversity. Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 2) Maintain and improve plant community composition. 3) Improve mule deer and elk habitat. 4) Limit surface disturbance activities during fire management operations. 5) Prevent fire spread from public lands onto private lands unless an agreement is in place with the landowner(s). 6) Protection, avoidance or mitigation of heritage resources vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities.

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Allow fire use to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role.
- Use of prescribed fire is desired to re-introduce fire into the ecosystem.
- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic within sagebrush-grasslands and marginal timbered plant communities.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Chemical and various methods of mechanical treatments will be considered, as needed, by a site-specific plan to create uneven aged vegetative mosaics within sagebrush-grasslands and to improve diversity of herbaceous species and regeneration of decadent aspen stands.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Evaluate the need for rehabilitation or restoration work following disturbances focusing on immediate re-establishment of native vegetation species suited to local range sites.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- There are no identified communities at risk (as listed on the Federal Register) in this FMU.

C. Fire Management Strategies:

Suppression: Use AMR to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSAs would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack. When suppression of the fire is determined to be the best management option, attempt to contain fires occurring at FIL 1-4 at 10 acres or less 90% of the time. On fires occurring at FIL 5-6, attempt to contain the fire at 400 acres or less 75% of the time.

Use of Wildland Fire: Use of Wildland fire for resource benefit is an identified fire management option within this FMU. A WFIP will be completed for all wildland fires that are managed for resource benefit. For further information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide. Over a ten year period the total acres desired would not exceed 12,000 acres or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Prescribed Fire: Treatments will be implemented over the next ten years in sagebrush-grassland communities of this FMU. Objectives for broadcast burning are hazard fuel reduction and restoring ecosystem health (primarily improvement of mountain shrub habitat and restoration of aspen stands in declining health). This FMU falls within the boundaries of the Platte River Drainage Basin. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 12,000 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatments: Mechanical treatments will be implemented over the next ten years with objectives including hazardous fuels reduction, aspen regeneration and improvement of mountain shrub habitat. A portion or all of the 12,000 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Projects will be identified on an as needed basis to re-establish native vegetation species.

Community Protection/Community Assistance: Work closely with homeowners, ranchers, and communities in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels

reduction projects on public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

9. Lander Slope FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location: This FMU is located west and southwest of Lander. Included in this FMU are the North Fork, Middle Fork and the Little Popo Agie River drainages. This FMU is bounded on the southwest side by the Shoshone National Forest and on its north side by the Wind River Indian Reservation. This area totals 270,819 acres encompassing 111,253 acres of private land, 29,875 acres of Wyoming State lands and 129,350 acres of public lands and 61 acres of DOD lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, private lands, DOD lands and adjoining USFS and BIA lands.

Characteristics: This FMU consists of foothills of the Wind River Range, characterized by moderately steep terrain dissected by steep river canyons. There are also numerous small canyons and streams within the FMU. Access in this FMU is limited by rough, rocky two-track roads, mainly navigable by four-wheel drive vehicles. Elevations range from 5500 - 10,000 feet. The dominant vegetation types within this FMU are Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and lodgepole pine. Tree species also include aspen, limber pine and juniper, but to a lesser extent. Main uses of this FMU include livestock grazing and recreation. Approximately 52,000 acres of ACEC land exist in this FMU. Resource emphasis includes: scenic quality, crucial wildlife habitat, South Pass Historic Mining District, cultural and recreational values. This FMU contains the Red Canyon National Natural Landmark (NNL). Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. The Red Canyon Big Game Winter Range area is located at the southern end of the FMU. The FMU is important habitat for elk, mule deer and moose. The west edge of the FMU (which borders the Shoshone NF) has potential habitat to support the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, which are threatened species, and the gray wolf, which is considered to be a "non-essential experimental population." Soils within this FMU are extremely variable dependent upon location. Higher elevation areas on the Lander Slope are channery loam, loamy, and sandy loams derived from limestone and sandstone. The majority of the mid and lower elevation uplands and alluvial fans are clay loams and sandy clay loams derived from shale, sandstone and alluvium. There are also minor areas of mid-elevation soils that are loamy and derived from red beds. Soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect. Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State

Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.

Fire History: Lightning caused fires account for the majority of all ignitions. Predominant fire size classes are B and C. On average, two size class C fires occur annually. From 1980 to 2003, approximately, 100 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 8,500 acres. Not all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over this time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Within this time frame, the Commissary (1999), 550 acres (400 acres BLM), the Red Canyon (2000) 1,312 acres (182 acres BLM), and the Murphy Draw (2000) 1,365 acres (703 acres BLM) fires occurred. The Pass Creek fire occurred in 2002. This fire burned a total of 13,433 acres with 4,725 acres being on public lands. Suppression fires normally occur from June 15 thru September 30. Historical weather data indicates that frost can occur above 8000' every month of the year. Maximum temperatures can reach 100° during July and August in the lower elevations. During the summer months, lightning storms are relatively frequent as cumulus clouds often build up along the foothills of the Wind River Range.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: This FMU has been given ratings of Fire Regime IV (less frequent, stand replacement) and Condition Class of 2 (moderately altered from historic range) for timbered communities dominated by lodgepole pine and Douglas fir and a rating of Fire Regime III (less frequent, mixed severity) and Condition Class 2 (moderately altered from historic range) for mountain shrub and limber pine plant communities. Approximately, 250 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 to condition class 1.

Values at Risk: Primary values to be protected consist primarily of elk and deer winter range, range improvements, visual resources (as this area is on the front of the Wind River Range), large amounts of private and state lands intermingled within this FMU, and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities that are known to exist in the FMU. This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. For updates; see the RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

Communities at Risk: The following communities within the FMU have been identified as Communities at Risk on the Federal Register: Atlantic City, Homestead Park Subdivision, Sinks Canyon and South Pass City. The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. This list is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and was printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives: 1) Prevent fire spread from Public lands into communities or sub-divisions listed above. 2) Provide a mosaic of age classes in the sagebrush/grassland/ mountain shrub communities. Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 3) Reduce amount of conifer encroachment into sagebrush/ mountain shrub communities. 4) Regenerate decadent stands of aspen through use of fire or mechanical methods. 5) Protection, avoidance or mitigation of heritage resources that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities.

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Use prescribed fire to re-introduce fire into the ecosystem.
- Use prescribed fire treatments to create a vegetative mosaic and limit the extent of conifer encroachment into sagebrush/mountain shrub communities, and rejuvenate older aspen stands and promote aspen regeneration.
- Use prescribed fire in the form of pile burning to reduce the hazardous fuel build-up created by thinning near communities and sub-divisions and also created by cutting conifers out of vegetative communities.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Chemical and various methods of mechanical treatments will be considered, as needed, by a site-specific plan to create uneven aged vegetative mosaics.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Evaluate the need for rehabilitation or restoration work following disturbances focusing on immediate re-establishment of native vegetation species suited to local range sites.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Reduce fire risk to WUI communities.
- Develop risk assessment and mitigation plans for public and private lands.

C. Fire Management Strategies:

Suppression: Use AMR to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. The priority is to prevent wildland fire spread to intermingled private lands, particularly where there are homes and structures. There are known significant historic and prehistoric sites in this FMU which require protection from wildfire and/or related events and activities, such as historic homesteads/cabins and prehistoric rock art panels. Other fire management concerns are limited access and private cabins within the FMU. In areas of mixed conifer and aspen, AMR would attempt to contain fires occurring at FIL 1-4 at 50 acres or less 90% of the time. In areas dominated by Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush at FIL 1-4, attempt to contain the fire at 20 acres or less 90% of the time and on fires occurring at FIL 5-6, attempt to contain fires at 100 acres or less 75% of the time. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack.

Use of Wildland Fire: Use of wildland fire for resource benefit is not an identified fire management option within this FMU. For further information on the use of wildland fire see Draft Wyoming Wildland Fire Use Guide.

Prescribed Fire: Over the next ten years vegetation treatments will be implemented for hazardous fuels reduction, aspen regeneration, restoration of ecosystem health in mountain shrub habitat(mountain sagebrush, bitterbrush, serviceberry and other associated shrubs), and burning of slash piles produced from mechanical vegetation treatments within the FMU. Fuels treatments not currently identified may be considered on an as needed basis or in conjunction with neighboring landowners/agencies by a site-specific plan. Initiate prescribed burning on approximately 2,500 acres over the next ten years or as developed and identified in individual activity plans.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatments: Over the next ten years mechanical treatments will be implemented to improve forest health, treat vegetation communities with conifer encroachment and to reduce the threat of wildland fire from spreading into communities of risk. When appropriate, mechanical treatments will be planned for product utilization. Projects not currently identified may be developed on an as needed basis by a site-specific plan. A portion or all of the 2,500 acres that were identified in the above prescribed burn strategies section may also be treated with mechanical, manual, chemical or biological methods for ecosystem health and to keep fire from spreading to private lands.

Restoration and Rehabilitation: Projects will be identified on an as needed basis to re-establish native vegetation species.

Community Protection/Community Assistance: Work closely with homeowners and ranchers in the FMU to develop and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on

public lands adjacent to private lands and structures at risk in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

10. Copper Mountain FMU

A. Description of FMU

Location: This FMU is located north and northwest of Lysite and primarily consists of the Bridger Creek drainage, Copper and Lysite Mountains. The Wind River Indian Reservation bounds this FMU on the west side. This area totals approximately 191,067 acres encompassing 53,456 acres of private land, 12,204 acres of state lands and 125,338 acres of public lands and 66 acres of BOR lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands, BOR lands, adjoining BIA lands and private lands.

Characteristics: This FMU consists of lands characterized by steep terrain dissected by numerous small drainages. The Copper Mountain WSA is within this FMU. It encompasses 6,858 acres. This WSA was not recommended for wilderness designation in the 1992 report to Congress. There are three main dirt roads running north-south through this FMU, the Nowood, Bridger Creek, and Birdseye Pass Roads. The Badwater Road and Point of Mountain Road run east-west. Other than these roads, access in this FMU is very limited. Most two-track roads are navigable to four-wheel drive vehicles only. Elevations range from 5400 - 8200 feet. The dominant vegetation types within this FMU are Wyoming big sagebrush and mountain big sagebrush communities. Juniper is the main tree species, with lesser amounts of limber pine. Use of this FMU includes livestock grazing and oil and gas leasing. No ACEC exists within this FMU. This FMU is important habitat for elk, deer and antelope. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. Soils are residuum and alluvium derived from limestone, sandstone and shale, and granite. Higher elevations are dominated by rock outcrop and well-drained, loamy and gravelly soils. Soils found on floodplains, terraces and hills are loamy, channery and well-drained with the occurrence of rock outcrop. Soil depths are variable within the FMU depending on relief and aspect. Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.

Fire History: Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions. Predominant fire size classes are A and B. On average, one size class B fire occurs annually and one size class C fire occurs in a ten year period. From 1980 to 2003, approximately 30 fires have occurred within the FMU, for a total of 125 acres. Not

all ignitions or acres were accurately recorded over the time period, for example, multiple fires starting on private property and burning onto public lands would have been counted as one fire prior to the mid-1990s due to a change in the fire reporting system. Suppression fires normally occur from June 15 thru September 30. Maximum temperatures can reach 100° during July and August in the lower elevations. For most fires, the fire behavior has been low. Fire occurrence has been limited to torching of small pockets of juniper trees near ridgelines that are the result of lightning strikes. Very little ground fuels exist amongst the junipers, which limits the spread of fires. Precipitation usually accompanies most storms in this area. Potential for larger fires does exist within this FMU. This is dependent on several variables: location of the fire start, wind speed and/or the amount of fine fuels available to carry the fire.

Fire Regime/Condition Class: This FMU has Fire Regime ratings of IV (less frequent and stand replacement) and Condition Class of 3 (significantly altered from their historic fire regime) for juniper and limber pine vegetation communities and a Fire Regime III (less frequent and mixed severity) and Condition Class 2 (moderately altered from historic regime) for big sagebrush communities. Approximately 560 acres per year would be moved from condition class 2 or 3 to condition class 1 or 2.

Values at Risk: Primary values to be protected consist primarily of deer winter range, range improvements, some private and state lands intermingled within this FMU and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities that are known to exist in the FMU. This FMU also includes habitat for threatened and endangered species, species on the Wyoming BLM State Director's sensitive species list (such as sage grouse) and contains both year-round and crucial winter range for big game. For updates; see the RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

Communities at Risk: Currently, no communities at risk have been identified within this FMU (as listed in the Federal Register). The list may not include all the Communities at Risk located in this FMU. This list is maintained by Wyoming State Forestry and was printed in the Federal Registry. Refer to RAMS document located at the Lander Field Office.

B. Fire Management Objectives: 1) Sustain the productivity and diversity of juniper and sagebrush vegetative communities. Sagebrush ecosystems would be managed with the recommendations found in the Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities and the Wyoming Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Plan 2002 unless other objectives have been set forth in Activity Plans within the FMU. 2) Reduce amount of conifer encroachment into sagebrush/ mountain shrub communities. 3) Prevent fire spread from public lands onto state and private lands. 4) Protection, avoidance or mitigation of heritage resources that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities.

For objectives/DFC common to all FMUs see Section III D.

Suppression Objectives:

- Firefighter and public safety
- Protection of communities, developments and improvements.
- Protection of resources (i.e. cultural, wildlife habitat, watersheds, etc.)

Use of Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Objectives:

- Allow wildland fire **use** to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role.
- Use of prescribed fire is desired to re-introduce fire into the ecosystem.
- Create and maintain a vegetative mosaic and limit the extent of conifer encroachment into sagebrush/mountain shrub communities.
- Air quality objectives would be met.

Non-Fire Fuels Treatment Objectives:

- Chemical and various methods of mechanical treatments will be considered, as needed, by a site-specific plan to create uneven aged vegetative mosaics.

Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives:

- Evaluate the need for rehabilitation or restoration work following disturbances focusing on immediate re-establishment of native vegetation species suited to local range sites.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives:

- Currently, there are no identified communities at risk in this FMU (as listed in the Federal Register).

C. Fire Management Strategies:

Suppression: Use AMR to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire location. AMR strategy priorities would address the Copper Mountain WSA, resource concerns and preventing wildland fire spread to intermingled private lands. There are significant historic and prehistoric sites in this FMU which require protection from wildfire and/or related events or activities, such as mining camp cabins, mine shaft shed-like structures, and ore processing mills. Also, prehistoric timber sheep traps have been reported in this FMU. Limit the use of dozers and graders and use MIST when possible to limit surface disturbance. A WFSA would be completed whenever a fire escapes initial attack. When suppression of the fire is determined to be the best management option,

FMP Table 5
Dollar Summary

Unit: WYRAD
Option: MEL

Sub-Act: 2810	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
Personnel	132,045		24,766	12,085	767,301	936,197
Equipment	8,679				14,804	23,483
Procurement	20,931			5,105	47,987	74,023
Contract	7,147		110,268		204,200	321,615
F.O.R.					97,506	97,506
Travel	18,378			1,021	32,672	52,071
Training	1,532				37,266	38,798
Aviation						
Total:	188,712		135,034	18,211	1,201,736	1,543,693

Sub-Act: 2823	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
Personnel		122,666				122,666
Equipment	511	6,126				6,637
Procurement	766	5,105				5,871
Contract			18,378			18,378
F.O.R.		12,252				12,252
Travel	1,532	10,210				11,741
Training	1,021	15,315				16,336
Aviation						
Total	3,830	171,674	18,378			193,882

Sub-Act: 2824	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
Personnel		144,616		6,141		150,757
Equipment						
Procurement		2,042				2,042
Contract			17,000			17,000
F.O.R.		7,147				7,147
Travel		5,105				5,105
Training		5,105				5,105
Aviation						
Total			17,000	6,141		187,156

Sub-Act: 2830	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
Personnel						
Equipment						
Procurement						
Contract						
F.O.R.						
Travel						
Training						
Aviation						
Total						

Sub-Act: 2810 OT	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
Personnel						
Equipment					17,868	17,868
Procurement						
Contract					153,150	153,150

F.O.R.
Travel
Training
Aviation

=====
Total 171,018 171,018

Sub-Act: 2823 OT	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
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Personnel
Equipment
Procurement
Contract
F.O.R.
Travel
Training
Aviation

=====
Total:

Sub-Act: 2824 OT	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
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Personnel
Equipment
Procurement
Contract
F.O.R.
Travel
Training
Aviation

=====
Total

Sub-Act: ALL	Program Management	Fire Use and Fuels	Admin Support	Prevention	Init Atk/Suppression	Total Dollars
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Personnel	132,045	267,282	24,766	18,226	767,302	1,209,621
Equipment	9,189	6,126			32,672	47,987
Procurement	21,696	7,147		5,105	47,987	81,935
Contract	7,147		145,646		357,350	510,143
F.O.R.		19,399			97,506	116,905
Travel	19,910	15,315		1,021	32,672	68,918
Training	2,553	20,420			37,266	60,239
Aviation						

=====
Total 192,540 335,689 170,412 24,352 1,372,755 2,095,748

FY05 2823, April 14 After cleanup to meet funding levels

Office	Base Wages	Base Ops	RX		Mechanical		Other		Activities	Total
			Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost		
010	98,000	10,000	1,000	50,000	260	30,000			15,000	
020	0	0	100	2,000	368	38,000			0	
030	112,000	15,000	8,050	129,000	200	65,000			0	
040	48,000	10,000	7,800	120,000	0	0			5,000	
050	0	0	0	0	0	0			21,000	
060	80,000	10,000	450	20,000	0	0			0	
070	0	0	2,500	52,000	0	0			6,500	
080	0	0	1,025	46,250	0	0			0	
090	0	0	6,000	100,000	0	0			0	
100	0	0	0	0	100	50,000			0	
930										
950	100,000	25,000								
10% Admin		50,000								
Totals	438,000	120,000	26,925	519,250	928	183,000			47,500	1,313,450

Initial Funding Allocation is \$1,313,000

With an additional funding could accomplish

JM- \$110,000 for 2,110 acres

JQ - \$200,000 for 1,970 acres

JR - \$104,000 for 4,916 acres

Initial Targets

RX 30,000

Mech 1,000

Other 0

WY Response

26,925

928

0

FY05 2824 April 14 – after cleanup to meet funding levels

Office	Base Wages	Base Ops	RX		Mechanical		Other		CA	Total
			Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost		
010	115,000	20,000	50	5,000	75	35,000	50	10,000		
020	74,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
030	55,000	10,000	29	25,000	50	50,000	0	0		
040	39,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0		
050	60,000	10,000	244	29,750	95	24,000	0	0	55,000/ DD 5	
060	126,000	20,000	104	69,000	70	35,000	0	0		
070	74,000	10,000	340	14,500	80	50,000	0	0		
080	60,000	10,000	65	2,600	40	75,000	0	0		
090	74,000	10,000	100	7,500	0	0	0	0		
100	60,000	10,000	0	0	75	50,000	0	0		
930	70,000	0								
950	33,000	25,000								
10% Admin		90,000							AA Monies* 145,000	
Totals	840,000	235,000	932	153,350	485	319,000	50	10,000	200,000	1,757,350

Initial Funding Allocation is \$1,758,000

With an additional funding could accomplish

JW – \$14,100 for 180 acres

JT - \$180,000 for 236 acres

JU - 0

*AA Monies are set aside for potential use in locally developed Assistance Agreements with not-for-profits to do fuels work/planning/education – if these funds are not used they will be moved to implementation.

Initial Targets

RX 1,500

Mech 1,000

Other 0

WY Response

50

932

485

Suppression Program

