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PROPOSED CASPER  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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*APPENDIX U*

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Intensive Management

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## **Appendix U Intensive Management**

All surface-disturbing activities and wildlife-disturbing activities would be managed intensively in the Bates Hole Management Area (MA), Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Sand Hills MA, and the South Bighorns and the Red Wall/Gray Wall complex. Intensive management would cover the following resources:

### **Soil**

- All surface disturbances will be minimized. Proposed surface-disturbing activities will be modified (located) to avoid areas of highly erosive soils to the greatest extent practicable.
- Conduct field investigations on every surface-disturbing activity. Onsite soil investigations may include mapping the soils to a series level, collecting soil samples for physical and chemical analysis, evaluating current erosion conditions specific to the site, and prescribing mitigation and reclamation practices.
- Require full topsoil salvage and segregation on all disturbed areas.
- Require a temporary protective surface treatment on all disturbed areas not required for operations on highly erosive soil types within 30 days of disturbance. Surface treatments will vary depending on local site conditions and changes in erosion control technology, but may include mulch, matting, netting or tackifiers.
- Prohibit surface-disturbing activities that cannot reduce soil erosion to less than 2 tons per acre per year by the 5<sup>th</sup> year after final reclamation.
- Complete reclamation activities (final contouring, replacing topsoil, reseeding, and surface treatment) on all disturbed areas within two growing seasons, or implement temporary measures until the next growing season.
- Reseed all disturbed areas with native species adapted to the site conditions and capable of providing protective soil cover. All seed must be certified weed-free. Nonnative species may be used, on a case-by-case basis, when resource objectives cannot be met through the use of native species and the nonnative plants have no invasive properties.
- Reclamation targets have been established to protect soil resources. Reclamation success will be evaluated after three and five growing seasons. Reclaimed areas that do not have at least 50 percent of predisturbance vegetative cover three growing seasons after final reclamation, and at least 80 percent of predisturbance vegetative cover five growing seasons after final reclamation must be re-treated. Re-treating will vary by site and initial reclamation success, but may include invasive species control, reseeding the site with other native species, or the same native species under more favorable environmental conditions. Re-treatment also may involve additions of fertilizers or soil amendments and protective cover, such as mulch, matting or netting. Livestock grazing also may be limited until reclamation success has been established. Grazing controls will vary by site, but might include herding, fencing, deferred use, or supplemental feeding.
- Evaluate existing road and trail use in the planning area. Close and reclaim all roads and trails on BLM-administered surfaces that are in areas designated as highly erosive soils and not being utilized to meet public demand.
- Conduct annual inspections of disturbed and reclaimed areas on projects in areas of highly erosive soil, or projects disturbing more than 10 acres per year, to determine erosion condition and reclamation success.

### **Water Resources**

- Reclaim and revegetate all unnecessary roads. Unnecessary roads include those that are no longer needed to support a management activity or authorized use. Build and maintain all new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) roads and all roads associated with BLM-authorized activities to BLM road standards.
- Recognize and apply nonpoint source best management practices (BMPs) ([www.epa.gov/owow/nps/categories.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/categories.html)) for all activities with potential for increasing nonpoint source pollution. Including, but not limited to, forestry, agriculture (including grazing, cropland management, pesticide use, and fertilization), fire management (prescribed fire and fire suppression), hydromodification and habitat alteration, roads, wetland/riparian management, and weed control.
- Rehabilitate and or stabilize reservoirs that are silted full, abandoned, failing, and (or) otherwise no longer meeting management objectives on all BLM-administered surfaces.
- Drill new water supply wells, develop new seeps and springs, and construct new reservoirs to BLM and state standards to disperse livestock and wildlife use on all BLM-administered lands.

### **Vegetation**

- Manage vegetative communities to allow optimal live vegetative basal cover and ground litter within the potential of the ecological site (soil type, landform, climate, and geology).
- Apply vegetative treatments where and when needed to achieve desired future conditions that may include, but are not limited to, improving age-class diversity, plant vigor, forage quality, and maintaining variable seral states.
- Do not allow placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements for livestock within ½ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values would not be adversely impacted. Require that forage supplements be “certified weed-free.”

### **Aspen**

- For ecological sites that have the potential to grow aspen, aspen will be considered the desired plant species regarding future management actions.

### **Mountain Shrub Communities (specifically curl-leaf and true mountain mahogany communities)**

- Allow for no net loss of these vegetative communities. Apply vegetative treatments where and when needed to achieve desired future conditions, which may include, but not be limited to improving age-class diversity, plant vigor, and forage quality.

### **Sagebrush Communities**

- Retain an appropriate mix of seral states for the various sagebrush communities to meet the habitat requirements of the numerous wildlife species that depend on these communities.

### **Riparian**

- Bring all riparian areas up to proper functioning condition (PFC) and potential natural community (PNC).
- When crossing perennial streams, riparian and wetland habitats, or water bodies with linear facilities, use best available technology and (or) BMPs to minimize impacts. Wildlife and livestock watering facilities and recreation facilities will be allowed when no other alternatives exist, and only when they meet management objectives. These activities also will be required to use best available technology and (or) BMPs to minimize adverse impacts.