

APPENDIX 15—STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND VEGETATION MANIPULATIONS

These operating procedures provide standard guidance for all range improvements and vegetation manipulations. Procedures are as follows:

- Consultation with the affected interest groups and an approved environmental analysis are required for all range improvements before any project is constructed.
- Roads or trails to new construction or project sites will be constructed only if access does not exist.
- Proposed range improvements, resulting in surface disturbance, will be inventoried for archeological features. All archeological sites identified will be avoided, or surface disturbing activities at those sites mitigated.
- If undiscovered cultural remains are encountered during construction, the operator will temporarily discontinue activities until the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) evaluates the discovery and determines the appropriate action.
- Proposed range improvements resulting in surface disturbance will be subject to the guidelines established in Appendix 1.
- No action will be taken by BLM that could jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species.
- BLM will also comply with any state laws applying to animal or plant species identified by the state as being threatened or endangered (in addition to the federally listed species).
- Wildlife escape devices will be installed and maintained in all water troughs.
- All areas where vegetation manipulation occurs will be totally rested from livestock grazing for the period of time that is necessary to allow recovery and reestablishment of key forage species.
- Chemical treatment will consist of applying approved chemicals to manage vegetation. Before chemicals are applied, BLM will comply with Department of Interior regulations. All chemical applications will be preceded by an approved pesticide use proposal and an environmental assessment. All applications will be carried out in compliance with the pesticide laws for Wyoming.
- All land treatment projects on crucial wildlife ranges will be limited in size, where necessary, by the cover and/or forage requirements of wildlife. Proper mitigation measures will be incorporated.
- Land treatment projects would generally be subject to seasonal wildlife stipulations.
- All burning projects will have a burn plan, an environmental assessment, and a burn permit from the State of Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality before project initiation.

