

KIGER MUSTANG AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. POLICY

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), such as the Kiger Mustang ACEC, are established for their special values. They are important in protecting significant historic, cultural and scenic values, wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recognizes the role of designating ACECs in sound land use management. The authority to establish ACECs is provided through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

II. BASIS FOR DEDICATION AND OBJECTIVES

A. Basis for Dedication

After an area is nominated to become an ACEC, it is analyzed during the resource management planning process to determine if it meets the relevance and importance criteria. The proposed designation is then published in the general land use plan for review by the public and a final designation is made in the *Federal Register*.

The Kiger Mustang ACEC was designated in 1992 (*Federal Register*, Vol. 57, No. 202, Page 47671) to protect the historic values (the relevance criteria) which are of more than local significance (importance criteria). It was analyzed in the Three Rivers Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (1992).

B. General Management Considerations and Constraints

The following general management considerations and constraints were established at the time the ACEC was designated.

Lands within the ACEC are classified as both Zone 1 (retention) and Zone 2 (exchange) for consideration in land tenure adjustments.

The ACEC is in the restricted right-of-way area. Rights-of-way may be granted if they are compatible with the objectives of the ACEC and no feasible alternative exists.

This ACEC is open to fire suppression activities. Prescribed burning and vegetation treatment are restricted activities.

Fluid energy minerals leases would be subject to a "no surface occupancy" stipulation. Modifications to this stipulation may be granted if it is determined by the Bureau that the proposed surface-disturbing activities would not degrade the habitat or otherwise be detrimental to the values for which the ACEC was established. Development of solid leasable minerals, mineral materials, and locatable minerals is restricted.

The ACEC is open to camping, plant collection, and rock hounding. Wood gathering is restricted.

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use is limited to existing roads and trails.

Other restricted activities in the ACEC are organized public activities and repeated consumptive educational activities.

C. Objectives

The primary management objective for which this ACEC is to perpetuate and protect the dun factor color and conformation characteristics of the wild horses present in the Kiger and Riddle Mountain Herd Management Areas.

Objectives, management actions, and monitoring for the management of wild horses, livestock grazing, and rangeland resources can be found in the Kiger/Riddle Herd Management Plan (HMAP), and Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) for the Burnt Flat, Happy Valley, and Smyth-Kiger Allotments.

Educational opportunities will be provided to increase public knowledge of wild horses and BLM's land management role and responsibility in managing wild horses.

Wilderness values of the Stonehouse Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (2-23 L) will be protected and enhanced. Ensure that any management actions are consistent with the wilderness Interim Management Policy (IMP) nonimpairment criteria.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Specific management actions which directly affect the perpetuation and protection of the dun factor color and conformation characteristics of the wild horses are addressed in the Kiger-Riddle Mountain HMAP.

Legal public access to herd management areas will be provided.

The road to the horse viewing site will be rerouted around private land, a cattleguard will be installed, and the road will be maintained on a periodic basis.

Directional and informational signs will be installed and maintained in the ACEC area.

Brochures will be provided at the viewing area.

Traffic counters will be installed on main roads in the ACEC.

Commercial use of the area will be authorized through a permitting process to ensure compliance with ACEC restrictions.

The limited OHV designation in the ACEC will be enforced.

No action will be allowed that would impair any wilderness value.

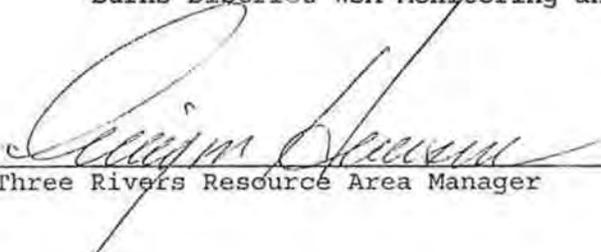
IV. MONITORING

Periodic inspections of road conditions will be made so maintenance can be performed in a timely manner.

Use traffic counter information and horse behavior data to determine if level of public activity is adversely affecting horses.

Increase law enforcement presence during times of high public use (generally summer and fall) to guarantee that OHV limitations are obeyed.

Monitoring and surveillance patrols will occur in accordance with the Burns District WSA Monitoring and Surveillance Plan.



Three Rivers Resource Area Manager

3-5-96
Date