

CONTROLLED SURFACE USE STIPULATION

BIG GAME WINTER RANGE

Stipulation: Prior to surface occupancy and use a plan shall be prepared by the proponent as a component of the APD, Sundry Notice, etc. and approved by the AO with confirmation from the state wildlife management agency. The operator shall not initiate surface-disturbing activities unless the AO has approved the plan. The plan must demonstrate to the AO's satisfaction the function and stability of the habitat will not be impaired.

Surface occupancy and use activities will be restricted to one oil and gas surface disturbance per 640 acres of land. Cumulative disturbance from all activities cannot exceed more than 5 percent of the winter range habitat in 640 acres. To maintain functional habitat and the associated populations, disturbed areas would have to be fully reclaimed to pre-disturbance conditions or to a desired plant community before additional disturbance could be approved. The plan will address how short-term and long-term direct and indirect effects to winter range will be mitigated based on current science and research (Appendix H). The plan will also include a monitoring protocol.

On the lands described below:

Objective: To protect winter range utilized during mild to severe winters by big game identified by BLM priority species for management; including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep.

Exception: The AO, after coordination with the state wildlife management agency, may grant an exception if the action will not impair the function or suitability of the winter range habitat.

Modification: The AO, after coordination with the state wildlife management agency, may modify the boundaries of the stipulated area if portions of the leasehold are no longer big game winter range habitat.

Waiver: None