



Chapter 2 Resource Decisions

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the proposed actions contained in the Billings final RMP/EIS. It outlines the decisions on all the land use objectives and recommendations including rationale proposed in the final environmental impact statement (FEIS). It also contains by resource, a monitoring plan, implementation priorities, and required support.

The monitoring plan will outline monitoring programs for evaluating the effectiveness of plan proposals such as forage allocations and wildlife improvements. Monitoring will determine whether assumptions were correctly applied and impacts correctly predicted. Monitoring will also help to establish long-term use and resource condition trends for the resource area, and will provide valuable information for future planning. The implementation priorities will guide the order in which projects are implemented. These priorities will be tied to the budget process and will be accomplished first, second and so on. The number one priority for each resource will always be to maintain its base program. This includes funding normal operating costs, completing administrative duties, and responding to public inquiries. Support will show what subsistence will be necessary from other resources, job skills and agencies to implement the planned actions described in the resource management plan.

Special Management Considerations

Certain significant resources addressed in the Billings RMP have not only local and regional interest, but are of national interest as well. As such, these resources received special management consideration beyond the context of a typical resource management plan. The Billings Resource Area has two resources of this nature: wilderness and wild horses.

At the time, the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR) was established in 1968, the Secretary of Interior appointed a National Advisory Committee to deal with the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse issue. Management direction was then determined through a number of recommendations made by this committee. Presently, many of these recommendations are still in effect and are identified in the RMP as well as the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Herd Management Area Plan.

In addition, the area utilized by the wild horses encompasses private, state, Forest Service (FS), National Park Service (NPS) and BLM lands. Also, within the area utilized by wild horses, are entire areas or portions of three BLM, one FS and one NPS Wilderness Study Areas. This complex situation requires special management consideration in order to resolve resource conflicts, be consistent with other agencies' policies or plans, and conform to regulations and laws set forth in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

