

Issues Identified in the HiLine District

Planning issues are determined from demands, conflicts, or problems concerning use or management of public lands and resources. These issues may stem from new information or changed circumstances, the need to address environmental protection concerns, or a need to reassess the appropriate mix of allowable uses based on new information. The following planning issues were identified through public scoping and information gathered in analyzing the existing management situation in the planning area. Based on the input of the public, other government agencies, and the BLM and its cooperators, 10 key issues were identified.

Issue 1: How will the area be managed for the development of fluid minerals, solid minerals, and renewable energy?

Issue 2: Are there opportunities to enhance management through land ownership adjustment?

Issue 3: How will soils and vegetation be managed to achieve or maintain healthy ecosystems while providing for a broad range of multiple uses?

Issue 4: How will the area be managed for cultural resources and significant paleontological resources?

Issue 5: How should the BLM manage motorized travel to meet the needs for public access and resource uses while considering conflicts of use and effects on other resources?

Issue 6: How will access be managed to meet the needs of the public?

Issue 7: How will the BLM manage resource uses while protecting important wildlife habitat and special status species, including greater sage-grouse?

Issue 8: Which areas, if any, should be managed as special designations, and how should they be managed to protect values that warrant special designation status?

Issue 9: How will the BLM manage for fire, including wildfire and prescribed fire?

Issue 10: How will the BLM consider social and economic conditions in the planning area when managing BLM lands?

Issue 11: Which areas, if any, should be managed for wilderness characteristics and how should they be managed to protect those values?