



## HiLine Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)

**FACT SHEET:** Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

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An ACEC is a designation that highlights areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural and scenic values; fish, wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. The BLM establishes special management measures for these areas through land use planning. The designation is a record of significant values that must be accommodated when the BLM considers future management actions and land use proposals. Nominations for ACECs must stand the test for **relevance** and **importance** before they are evaluated for ACEC designation. The following criteria are used to determine if nominations will be considered.

### Relevance

An area meets the relevance criteria if it contains one or more of the following:

- A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).
- A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).
- A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).
- Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the RMP process that it has become part of a natural process.

### Importance

The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described in the relevance section must have substantial significance and values to meet the importance criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

- Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.
- Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
- Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA).
- Has qualities that warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
- Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

The general location and acreage of the ten ACECs that are proposed for designation under the preferred alternative are displayed on a map on the opposite side of this page.

Proposed ACEC (Existing)	Relevant & Important Values	Acres
Azure Cave	Wildlife habitat, natural hazards	141
Big Bend of the Milk River	Cultural, historic	1,972
Bitter Creek	Historic, cultural, scenic, wildlife habitat, natural processes	60,701
Kevin Rim	Cultural, wildlife habitat	4,557
Mountain Plover	Wildlife habitat	24,762
Sweet Grass Hills	Historic, cultural	7,419
Proposed ACEC (New)	Relevant & Important Values	Acres
Frenchman	Scenic, wildlife habitat, natural processes	42,020
Malta Geological	Geologic, paleontological, natural processes	6,153
Woody Island	Scenic, wildlife habitat	32,869
Zortman/Landusky Mine Reclamation	Natural hazards, public safety	2,682

