



South Dakota Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision

FACT SHEET: Special Designations

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The South Dakota Draft RMP/EIS addresses a variety of special designations mandated by law, regulation and policy, along with a range of associated management actions to protect important resource values. Special designations evaluated in the plan are Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), wild and scenic rivers, National Historic Trails and Back Country Byways.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Section 202 (c) (3) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) mandates that priority be given to the designation and protection of ACECs. These areas are where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important values, resources, systems or processes, or to safeguard human life and safety from natural hazards.

An ACEC is a BLM designation and only applies to BLM-administered surface lands. The Draft RMP/EIS addresses existing, new or proposed ACECs and associated management actions to protect ACEC values. There are two areas that continue to be designated as ACECs in the planning area as listed in Table 1 below. Table 2 lists South Dakota Draft RMP/EIS proposed ACECs and other special areas including Wilderness Study Areas, National Historic Trails and Back Country Byways by alternative.

Table 1: Planning area ACECs by county.

| South Dakota Draft RMP/EIS ACECs | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| ACEC Name | Important Values | County | Acres |
| Fort Meade | Cultural | Meade | 6,574 (varies by alternative) |
| Fossil Cycad | Paleontology | Fall River | 320 |

Table 2: South Dakota Draft RMP/EIS proposed ACECs and other special areas including Wilderness Study Areas, National Historic Trails and Back Country Byways by alternative.

| South Dakota Draft RMP/EIS Summary - ACECs and other Special Areas | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | Relevant & Important Values | Alternative A | Alternative B | Alternative C | Alternative D |
| ACECs Fort Meade Fossil Cycad SD Sage Grouse Protection Priority Area | Cultural, Historic Paleontological Wildlife | 2 ACECs 6,348 acres 320 acres 0 acres | 2 ACECs 6,348 acres 320 acres 0 acres | 3 ACECs 6,574 acres 320 acres 96,379 acres | 2 ACECs 6,348 acres 320 acres 0 acres |
| Wilderness Study Areas | | None | | | |
| National Historic Trails | | None | | | |
| Back Country Byways | | Fort Meade Back Country Byway | | | |