

# PINEDALE ANTICLINE MULE DEER: ACTIONABLE ITEMS UPDATE

Shane DeForest  
Field Manager



http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field\_offices/Pinedale/anticline.html

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Wyoming

BLM

Search

BLM > Wyoming > Field Offices > Pinedale > PAPA SEIS ROD Implementation Print Page

Pinedale Field Office

### PAPA SEIS ROD Implementation

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is a complex document with many ambitious requirements emphasizing concentrated and systematic development, measurable outcomes, adaptive management and cooperative monitoring in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA). The BLM has developed an implementation plan that will help break down these requirements into manageable pieces by detailing goals, effects, responsible parties and deadlines; basically, a timeline for what needs to be done, why, by whom, and when.

Some ROD requirements have already been completed, while others will be completed throughout the coming months and years for such areas as air quality, cultural resources, range, reclamation and water. Essentially, the implementation plan is a living document that will act as the BLM's roadmap to navigate through the ROD efficiently with clear objectives, responsibilities and deadlines.

- 2010 ROD Implementation Report to the Public
- 2009 ROD Implementation Report to the Public
- ROD Implementation Plan
- Air Quality Implementation Plan

### Adaptive Management

An essential part of the SEIS ROD is adaptive management. The intent of adaptive management is to provide a process for any person or group to propose changes to the ROD based on ongoing monitoring results in the Anticline. It is not intended to change decisions within the SEIS, but to clarify decisions and/or modify monitoring methods. More information is available at the [Pinedale Anticline Project Office \(PAPO\)](#) web page.

Adaptive Management Process

### Approved Adaptive Management Memos

- Mule Deer Matrix Threshold Changes

PAPA Links
<a href="#">2008 PAPA SEIS</a>
<a href="#">2000 PAPA EIS</a>
<b>Introduction to the ROD Workshop</b>
> <a href="#">Agenda</a>
> <a href="#">Presentation</a>
> <a href="#">Annual Planning Meeting (development)</a>
> <a href="#">Air, Water and Socioeconomics Annual Planning Meeting</a>
> <a href="#">Wildlife Annual Planning Meeting</a>
<b>Resources</b>
> <a href="#">Air Quality</a>
> <a href="#">Reclamation</a>
> <a href="#">Water</a>
> <a href="#">Wildlife</a>
<a href="#">Pinedale Anticline Project Office</a>
<a href="#">Pinedale Anticline Working Group</a>

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



# ACTIONABLE ITEMS LIST ON WEB



ACTIONABLE ITEMS FROM PUBLIC COMMENT MATRIX	WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE TO ADDRESS THIS	TERM FOR ACTION IMMEDIATE (THIS YEAR), SHORT (WITHIN 1-2 YEARS, OR MID TERM (NEXT 2 TO FIVE YEARS)	Who is Responsible
Coordinate with USFS monitoring of mule deer on PXP project	Discussions with USFS already have taken place, Consider extending themonitoring ofmule deer habitat conditions out of the immediate Mesa area to attempt to learn more about how other parts of the Mesa mule deer range may be affecting body condition and to identify where future habitat improvements could be effective.	IMMEDIATE AND SHORT	BLM
Initiate expanded monitoring of mule deer in the Upper Green River basin	Coordination with the USFS regarding monitoring efforts/sharing of contractor, look to capture this in the Eagle Prospect Noble Basin Project ROD	IMMEDIATE AND SHORT	BLM
Look for larger scale projects	Use results from JIO/PAPO habitat/treatment/priority inquiry.	IMMEDIATE, SHORT AND MID	BLM
Continue applying mitigation, monitoring results, and adjusting response	Continue coordinated monitoring of past projects, collect baseline monitoring for approved projects. Annual review of reclamation andmonitoring plan	IMMEDIATE, SHORT	BLM
Define MITIGATION	BLM will clarify how the decisions of the SEIS ROD address the mitigation definitions contained in 40CFR 1508.20 (avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, compensate). Explain what the SEIS ROD mitigation package was intended to produce following completion of the development phase on the Anticline.	SHORT	BLM
Be thoughtful and deliberate in identifying where to apply mitigation. Develop partnerships and coordinate activities across agency lines to leverage limited funds. Prioritize projects with proportionally larger and/or broader returns over those with single resource benefit.	Coordination with WGF, Mule Deer Foundation, NRCS, WLCI, Wyoming Land Trust, others to build relationships, identify priorities, and leverage PAPO dollars. Prioritize project proposals for PAPO funding (mule deer and sagebrush centered proposals with a focus oin priority areas on/off site). Continue providing project proposals for public input into project review and consideration. Use results from JIO/PAPO habitat/treatment/priority inquiry.	IMMEDIATE, SHORT AND MID	BLM
Be cautious when entering current high use areas. Weigh cost:benefit and take lower risks with vegetation manipulation	Project planning priorities based on conditions, site potential, level ofuse, location, other uses. BLM and WGF and WyDOT reevaluate the bridge across the New Fork.	Short and Mid	BLM, WGF
Focus off-site mitigation treatments in migration routes and higher elevations where better response can be predicted	Coordination with WGF, Mule Deer Foundation, NRCS, WLCI, Wyoming Land Trust, others to build relationships, identify priorities, and leverage PAPO dollars	SHORT, MID	BLM, WGF
Complete conservation plans; coordinate regarding seedings and other developments being proposed for conservation plans	Conservation plans were completed for easement areas already. PAPO staff will, in Summer 2011, initiate discussions with easement landowners to review their conservation plans and discuss plans for maximizing benefits of the conserved areas for wildlife; habitat inventories and project proposals are expected to result.	IMMEDIATE, SHORT	BLM

# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

## Define Mitigation

- Short Term
  - › BLM will clarify how the decisions of the SEIS ROD address the mitigation definitions contained in 40CFR 1508.20 (avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, compensate).
  - › Explain what the SEIS rod mitigation package was intended to produce during the life of project.

**PRESENTED in February, SEIS ROD WORKSHOP held in August. To be held again in winter 2011/12**



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

Coordinate with USFS monitoring of mule deer in relation to the noble basin project

Initiate expanded monitoring of mule deer in upper green river area

- Immediate/short term

- › Discussions have already taken place with USFS

**RECEIVED WGF recommendations, extended monitoring of shrub and herbaceous species, correlate collar data to ecological sites to determine the best locations for future treatments; Additional fence inventory and modification**

learn more about how other parts of the mesa mule deer range may be affecting body condition and to identify where future habitat improvements could be effective

- › Coordination with USFS regarding monitoring

**Discussions have taken place. Further coordination efforts/sharing of contractor, look to capture this in the will occur once the ROD is issued.**

eagle prospect noble basin project ROD

- Mid term

- › Continue to share results of monitoring with public as it comes in



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

Look For Larger Scale Projects

Be Cautious When Entering Current High Use Areas.

Weigh The Cost : Benefit And Take Lower Risks  
With Vegetation Manipulation

Focus Off-site Mitigation Treatments In Migration  
Routes And Higher Elevations Where Better  
Response Can Be Predicted

Work Where The Deer Are First

Consider Other Uses And Their Impacts When  
Identifying Mitigation Response



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

- Immediate
  - › **Completed spring 2011, used to conduct habitat assessment. PAPO staff project identifying core areas and developing priorities. PAWG was consulted and provided advice/recommendations.**
- Short term
  - › **Discussions continuing** Coordination with WGF, mule deer foundation, NRCS, WLCI, Wyoming Land Trust, others to build relationships, identify priorities, and leverage PAPO dollars
  - › **Part of the screening process for the habitat assessment** Initially prioritize treatments where rest can be incorporated without major costs or changes to established uses.
  - › **Project construction underway** WYDOT approved funding of wildlife over/under-passes, construction scheduled to begin spring 2011



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

- Mid term

Project planning is based on developing priorities based on the result of the habitat assessment

BLM, WGF and county commission reevaluate the bridge across the New Fork River

**NOT YET DONE**

Once over/underpasses are complete, WGF compare traffic trends and wildlife mortality. BLM and WGF work with operators to redirect traffic out of high wildlife use areas during key periods

**PENDING**



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

Continue Applying Mitigation, Monitoring Results  
And Adjusting Response

Identify Priority Areas Such As Winter Concentration  
Areas And Migration Routes Where Enhanced  
Reclamation Efforts Can Be Completed

Look At Other Non-native Species For Reclamation  
Which Produce Higher Quality Browse And  
Provide For A Quicker Return To Productive Mule  
Deer Winter Range



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

- Immediate

- › Continue coordinated monitoring of past projects, collect baseline monitoring for approved projects,

**ON-GOING**

- Short term

- › Review of reclamation and monitoring plan

**UNDERWAY**

- › Within 3 months WGF provide BLM with list of reclamation species

**RECEIVED MAY 31, 2011**

- › Within 6 months BLM initiate adaptive management if necessary, to modify reclamation plan to allow use of non-native enhanced reclamation methods

**NOT YET DONE. Coordinating the approval of use of non-natives with the decision where/when to use other enhanced reclamation methods**

- › BLM and WGF identify priority areas (migration routes and winter concentration areas) on the anticline where enhanced reclamation (container planting, modified species lists etc.) Will be beneficial

**MEETING HELD August 8, 2011 - asking PAWG for advice and recommendations (November 8, 2011)**

- › By 2012 reclamation season, operators implement new reclamation standards in priority areas.

**ON TRACK**



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

Be Thoughtful And Deliberate In Identifying Where To Apply Mitigation. Develop Partnerships And Coordinate Activities Across Agency Lines To Leverage Limited Funds, Prioritize Projects With Proportionally Larger And/Or Broader Returns Over Those With Single Resource Benefit.

Identify What We Are Expecting From Mitigation Projects Before We Do Them, Monitor For Success, And Use The Information To Adapt Future Treatments



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

- Short term and mid term
  - › Prioritize project proposals for PAPO funding (mule deer and sagebrush centered proposals with A focus in priority areas on/off site)  
**ON-GOING**
  - › Emphasize through the application and review process for PAPO funded projects, that specific, achievable and measurable habitat improvement objectives are defined so that the PAPO staff may better evaluate the benefits of a project, the public can see how a project can affect mule deer and sagebrush, and the PAPO board can make more informed decisions whether or not to fund a project.  
**JIO/PAPO staff are giving additional consideration to projects with sagebrush and mule deer focus and will be updating the project funding application guidelines to better direct prospecting applicants.**
  - › Continue providing project proposals for public input into project review and consideration  
**ON-GOING**



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

Continue Utilizing Directional Drilling Technology To Address Wildlife Resources Without Affecting Pace Of Development Or Instituting Modification Of Operations Before Sequential Mitigation Process Is Complete. Ex. Directional Drilling Technology Offers A Means To Develop The Resource With Less Surface Disturbance In Areas Of Particular Importance To Mule Deer Winter/Migration Use



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

- Short term
  - › Allow ROD to continue working
  - › Continue using adaptive management (this process is **ON-GOING** working)
  - › Continue monitoring conditions closely
  - › According to the ROD, if undesirable changes continue to occur, implement additional mitigation treatments
- Mid term
  - › As concentrated phased development moves into the next geographic block within DA1, WGF BLM and operators **DISCUSSIONS WILL BE INITIATED IN 2012** look at ways to configure the CDAs to avoid or minimize overlap on migration routes and concentration areas,
    - » One of the goals would be to reduce the “blockage” **DISCUSSIONS WITH OPERATORS** of the snow migration route or “plugging” of the **UNDERWAY Regarding Pad Density** high concentration areas with winter drilling activity. **and Pad Expansion Approaches Underway**



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

BLM, WGF Work With Entities Who Are Drafting Ranch Plans For The Private Lands Within Easement Areas Monitoring Is Already A Part Of These Plans And Some Soils Information Is Already Completed.

Complete Conservation Plans; Coordinate Regarding Seedings And Other Developments Being Proposed For Conservation Plans



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

- Short term
  - › BLM and PAPO staff coordinate with entities preparing or updating ranch plans to identify plan status and see if there is an opportunity to be involved in priority habitat areas. Habitat inventories and project proposals could result.
  - › PAPO staff will, in summer 2011, initiate discussions with willing landowners to review the conservation plans and discuss plans for maximizing benefits of the conserved areas for wildlife, habitat inventories and project proposals are expected to result. **PAPO staff initiated this work and made contact with several landowners in spring 2011, however work on the habitat assessment, with its seasonal need to be out during the growing period took precedence and the conversations were not completed. PAPO staff will re-engage this effort in the winter.**
  - › PAPO staff and WGF identify priority habitat areas within conservation easement areas for habitat improvements. For willing landowners, look for opportunities to leverage mitigation dollars to propose and develop projects which would improve important habitat



# ACTIONABLE ITEM UPDATE

Undertake habitat condition inventories of un-fragmented habitat

- Short term

› WGF recommends landscape approach over fragmented habitats within priority mule deer winter and transitional range related to mesa  
**WGF recommends landscape approach over approaches based on unfragmented habitat within a disturbance area, TOP 4; Ryegrass, Soapholes, Cora Butte, Migratory Corridors**

- Mid term

› Within two years BLM and WGF undertake **INVENTORIES INITIATED. Habitat assessments in 2011 occurred in Ryegrass, Soapholes, Cora Butte, Migratory Corridors** inventories of current habitat conditions within these habitat block areas identify threats and prioritize habitat improvements where possible to offset these threats.



# UPCOMING

WINTER 2011

**Fertilization Application**

**Refine Project Boundaries**

IN 2012:

**Conduct Cultural Inventories**

**Quantify Expectations From Treatments**

**Public Scoping And Planning Documents**

**Second Fertilization Application**

IN 2013:

**Initiate Work In Priority Habitat Areas**

**Additional Fertilization Applications**

