



PRELIMINARY DRAFT ALTERNATIVES SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

No Action Alternative

- Oregon Buttes, White Mountain Petroglyphs, western portion of Greater Sand Dunes, Special Status Plant Species areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), and portions of the Red Desert would be open to coal leasing under a no surface occupancy (NSO) requirement. Eastern portion of Greater Sand Dunes ACEC would be open to coal leasing with controlled surface use stipulations. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) would be closed to all coal leasing.
- Greater Sand Dunes ACEC including Crookston Ranch and Boars Tusk, South Pass Historic Landscape, Special Status Plant Species ACEC, Steamboat Mountain ACEC, and Tri-Territory Marker site would be withdrawn from locatable minerals (future mining claims).
- Communication sites would be prohibited in Steamboat Mountain ACEC but considered on Essex Mountain and Pacific Butte.
- Steamboat Mountain, Greater Sand Dunes, and Special Status Plant Species ACECs would remain unchanged.
- Number, size, and location of all WSAs would remain unchanged.
- The viewshed of the National Historic Trail through South Pass would be maintained at approximately 3 miles.

Alternative 1

- ACECs would be open to coal leasing with NSO or controlled surface use (CSU) requirements. WSAs would be closed to all coal leasing.
- No additional areas would be withdrawn from locatable mineral exploration and development. Expansion of existing mining claims into the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC would be considered.
- Communication sites would be considered in Steamboat Mountain ACEC and on Essex Mountain and Pacific Butte.
- Steamboat Mountain, Greater Sand Dunes, and Special Status Plant Species ACECs would remain unchanged.
- Number, size, and location of all WSAs would remain unchanged.
- The viewshed of the National Historic Trail through South Pass would be maintained at approximately 3 miles.

Alternative 2

- All ACECs, WSAs, and other special management areas would be withdrawn from coal leasing and locatable minerals.

- Communication sites or any facility requiring 24-hour access or causing visual intrusion would not be allowed in any ACEC.
- Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be expanded to include Indian Gap, the face of Steamboat Mountain, and the area where the elk crucial winter range and birthing areas overlap. Greater Sand Dunes ACEC would be expanded to include the paleosol deposition area and designated as a Research Natural Area (RNA). Location and size of the Special Status Plant Species ACEC would be expanded to include BLM-administered land occupied by the large-fruited bladderpod, all Wyoming BLM special status plant species, and any potential habitat for these species. Big sagebrush/lemon scurfpea community would be evaluated for inclusion in an ACEC and designation as an RNA.
- The JMH planning area would be reviewed to identify any additional areas that fully meet the characteristics of wilderness and considered for designation as a WSA.
- The viewshed of the National Historic Trail through South Pass would be expanded to 5 miles from centerline of the trail.

Alternative 3

- Oregon Buttes, White Mountain Petroglyphs, western portion of Greater Sand Dunes, Special Status Plant Species areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs), and portions of the Red Desert would be open to coal leasing under a no surface occupancy (NSO) requirement. Eastern portion of Greater Sand Dunes ACEC would be open to coal leasing with controlled surface use stipulations. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) would be closed to all coal leasing.
- In addition to the No Action Alternative, additional areas of Steamboat Mountain would be withdrawn.
- In addition to the No Action Alternative, communication sites or any facility requiring 24-hour access or causing visual intrusion would not be allowed on Continental Peak and Oregon Buttes ACEC.
- Steamboat Mountain ACEC would be expanded to include Indian Gap, the face of Steamboat Mountain, and the area where the elk crucial winter range and birthing areas overlap. Greater Sand Dunes ACEC would be expanded to include the paleosol deposition area. Location and size of the Special Status Plant Species ACEC would be expanded to include BLM-administered land occupied by the large-fruited bladderpod, all Wyoming BLM special status plant species, and any potential habitat for these species. Big sagebrush/lemon scurfpea community would be evaluated for inclusion in an ACEC.
- The JMH planning area would be reviewed to identify any additional areas that fully meet the characteristics of wilderness. If any area meets wilderness criteria and falls within the existing management scheme for wilderness, it would be considered for designation as a WSA.
- The viewshed of the National Historic Trail through South Pass would be maintained at approximately 3 miles.