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**Fire Management Plan  
Southwestern Zone Wyoming BLM  
2004**

**Kemmerer BLM Field Office  
Rock Springs BLM Field Office  
Pinedale BLM Field Office**

**Signature Page**

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## Chapter 1 – Introduction

### A. Purpose

In 2002, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) instructed all offices to use the new Interagency Fire Management Plan (FMP) template to set wildland fire management goals and components to be coordinated across administrative boundaries and on a landscape basis. The Fire Management Plan will help achieve land use plan and activity level plan goals and objectives. Fire management decisions must be consistent and compatible across administrative boundaries. FMPs are to be developed for all areas subject to wildland fires in compliance with the following:

- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review – 1995 and 2001;
- A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment;
- 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan;
- Resource Management Plans
- Interagency Fire Management Plan Template.

Operational plans such as preparedness, pre-planned dispatch, standard operating guidelines, prescribed fire plans and prevention plans and Aviation Plans supplement the FMP.

This plan serves as the approved Fire Management Plan (FMP) for the Southwestern Zone, which includes all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Rock Springs, Kemmerer, and Pinedale Field Offices. Key components considered when developing the FMP included firefighter and public safety, protection values, natural and cultural resources, and public health issues. The Fire Management Plan is divided into Fire Management Units (FMUs) which will address all potential wildland fire occurrences, prescribed burning, and other vegetative treatments. FMUs may include a full range of management actions and are defined by natural and administrative boundaries, land management objectives, constraints, values at risk, fire occurrence patterns, access, and vegetation patterns. The FMU development allows Field Managers and Fire Management personnel to more effectively address land management objectives, constraints, and strategies to meet compliance with Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and other documents listed above. FMUs are developed in coordination with Field Office resource professionals, cooperators, and adjoining agencies to ensure consistency with approved land management plans.

### B. Relationship to Environmental Compliance

The FMP conforms to the policy and principals resulting from the 2001 update of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, which establishes direction for this program. This policy outlines that: appropriate management responses to ignitions occurring in wildland areas may range from aggressive initial attack to wildland fire use for resource benefits as outlined in the FMP and analysis of the specific situation. Fuels management may be employed to reduce hazardous fuels and meet resource objectives.

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These policy directives form the basis of operational protocols and strategies addressed throughout this FMP.

The Land Use Plans meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as well as other State and Federal regulatory requirements. Any reference to land use plans includes the four Resource Management Plans (RMPs). The FMP compiles land use decisions related to fire management from the applicable land use plans and is categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis, because it does not make decisions beyond those in the land use plan or RMP and other planning documents. Further site specific and project site specific proposals to implement the land use plan or RMP decisions will require additional environmental analysis and compliance with other relevant laws and regulations.

In addition to DOI Departmental Manual (910 DM), the Southwestern Zone Fire Management Plan is an integrated supporting document for the applicable RMP(s). The RMPs are mandated to be compliant with all federal, state, and local environmental policies. The Southwestern Zone supports a varied landscape within its boundaries and contains 14 million total surface acres of which 6 million are managed by the BLM.

## **C. Collaboration**

The Southwestern Zone Fire Management Plan has been a cooperative planning effort between:

- Bureau of Land Management
  - Kemmerer Field Office
  - Rock Springs Field Office
  - Pinedale Field Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge
  - Cokeville National Wildlife Refuge
- National Park Service
  - Fossil Butte National Monument
- Wyoming State Department of Forestry
- Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments
  - Sweetwater
  - Lincoln
  - Uinta
  - Teton
  - Sublette
  - Fremont
- USDA Forest Service
  - Ashley National Forest – Flaming Gorge National Recreational Area
  - Bridger-Teton National Forest
  - Wasatch-Cache National Forest

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## D. Authorities

Authorities and references that will be used in the implementation of this plan include but are not limited to:

- Department Manual 910
- BLM Bureau Manual 9200
- Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation (2003)
- BLM Fire Management Planning Handbook (H-9211-1)
- BLM Management of Designated Wilderness Areas (8560)
- Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review – 1995 and 2001
- A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment
- 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan
- Interagency Fire Management Plan Template
- Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003
- Healthy Forest Initiative
- Kemmerer Resource Management Plan
- Pinedale Resource Management Plan
- Green River Resource Management Plan
- Snake River Resource Management Plan
- Southwestern Zone Aviation Plan
- Southwestern Zone Initial Attack Plan
- Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations 2004
- DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook
- Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management
- Interim Management Guidelines for Conservation of Sage Grouse Habitat (currently in draft)
- Office of Fire and Aviation Instruction Memorandum 2002-038. Interim Guidance for Completion of Fire Management Plan Revisions using the Interagency Template. Attachment 1
- Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2004-007. Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan Guidance for Wildland Fire Management.

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## Chapter 2 – Relationship to Land Management Planning/Fire Policy

The Fire Management policies of the BLM support agency resource management goals. An overriding resource goal is the restoration or maintenance of natural ecosystems while providing for firefighter and public safety, protection of natural and cultural resources, and human developments from unwanted wildland fire.

The following acts contain legal requirements and authorities to plan and carry out activities to manage wildland fire on Department of the Interior lands. The acts provide a basis for cooperation between Agencies on all aspects of wildfire management and to facilitate the cooperative use of fire related resources for non fire emergencies.

- Protection Act of September 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 857; 16 U.S.C. 594)
- National Forest Indian Resources Management Act of 1991 (Pub. L. 101-630)
- The Economy Act of 1932. Act of June 30, 1932 (41 U.S.C. 686)
- The Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 572)
- The Reciprocal Fire Protection Act, Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856)
- The Wilderness Suppression Act, Act of April 7, 1989 (Pub. L. 100-428 as amended by Pub. L. 101-11. April 7, 1987)
- Supplemental Appropriation Act of September 10, 1982 (96 Stat. 837)
- Disaster Relief Act of May 22, 1974 (88 Stat 143; 42 U.S.C. 5121)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 through 1544)
- Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976

Additional National Agreements address cooperation for wildfire management includes:

- The Canada/United States, Reciprocal Forest Firefighting Resources Arrangement, May 7, 1982
- MOU between the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture, January 11, 1943
- MOU between the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture, 1976
- MOU between the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture and National Weather Service, 1972
- Interagency Agreement between the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, 1982
- Interagency Agreement Between the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior, and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture

The FMP complies with all laws, regulations, and policies, and is in conformance with the following RMPs:

- Green River Resource Management Plan
- Snake River Resource Management Plan
- Kemmerer Resource Management Plan

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- Pinedale Resource Management Plan

The FMP will aid in meeting land use plan and Resource Management Plan goals that include but are not limited to:

- Maintain and promote greater diversity within plant communities to meet land health standards.
- Maintain and protect air quality to meet or exceed applicable federal and state standards and regulations.
- Maintain and protect cultural landscapes and facilities and archaeological features in accordance with protocol set forth in the land use plan.
- Maintain or create a mosaic of species and age class structure and promote stand health.

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## Chapter 3 – Wildland Fire Management Strategies

### A. General Management Considerations

Under the FPU the following goals, principals and actions will apply but are not limited within this FMP:

- Use fire and fuel treatments to reduce hazardous fuels as well as restore and or sustain ecosystem health. Allow fire to function in its ecological role when appropriate for the site and situation.
- Identify appropriate management response (AMR) goals, objectives, and constraints by specific FMUs within the FPU. All wildland fire management activities will be managed as described in the FMU guidance outlined in Chapter III section D.
- Work collaboratively with communities at risk within the WUI to develop plans for risk reduction. The Federal Register Notice list is located at <http://www.fireplan.gov/> and [http://www.fireplan.gov/communities\\_at\\_risk.cfm](http://www.fireplan.gov/communities_at_risk.cfm) and is not totally inclusive of all communities.
- Work collaboratively with partners in fire and resource management across agency boundaries.
- Employ fire prevention strategies that reduce human-related ignitions.

### B. Wildland Fire Management Goals

The following is a list of wildland fire management goals. These goals provide the programmatic direction for the FMP:

- Wildland and prescribed fire would be used to achieve resource objectives to reduce accumulations of fuels outside the normal range of variability.
- Work with cooperators and adjoining agencies to prioritize and implement community at risk assessments and implement mitigate treatment options.
- Wildland, prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, and or biological treatments will be used to manage vegetation types, to maintain or improve biological diversity and the health of public lands. In particular plant species and age class diversity will be priority.
- All suppression actions will be based on life/safety, property and resource protection.
- Managing wildland fire for resource benefit will be used as appropriate when a fire plan is in place.
- All wildland fires will be managed with the appropriate management response as deemed appropriate.
- Fire and fuels management direction will be based on a variety of resource objectives and constraints.
- All attempts will be made to manage wildland fires and fuels treatments in a cost effective manner.
- When appropriate, wildland fires will be assessed and rehabilitation plans developed and implemented under national guidelines.

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- Support of the local economy will be provided through the opportunity for salvage logging and biomass utilization.
- Local vendors and contractors will be used within the fire and fuels program when available to support local economy.

## **C. Wildland Fire Management Options**

A range of management responses are acceptable in the FMUs depending on ownership, resource availability, local fire situation, public/firefighter safety, minimizing costs, resource objectives, agreements, and other issues. Wildland fire use for resource benefit may be applied in other areas when plans are in place. Management strategies and responses to resource requirements are noted in the FMUs according to resource values and considerations.

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## D. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit

The following tables are referred to in discussions in the Fire Management Units. These tables are included for reference.

**Fire Intensity Level (FIL):** An expression of fire line intensity, based on typical flame length or Burning Index value of a fire behavior condition, used in the analysis to reflect differences in difficulty of suppression and fire effects on resource outputs. The FILs are as follows:

<b>FIL</b>	<b>Flame Length (feet)</b>	<b>Burning Index (BI)</b>
1	0 - 2	0 – 20
2	2.1 - 4	21 – 40
3	4.1 - 6	41 – 60
4	6.1 - 8	61 – 80
5	8.1- 12	81 – 120
6	12.1 and over	121 and over

### **Table of Fire Regimes:**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Severity</b>
I	0-35 years	Low
II	0-35 years	Replacement
III	35-100+ years	Mixed
IV	35-100+ years	Replacement
V	200+ years	Replacement

### **Table of Fire Regime Condition Class descriptions**

<b>Fire Regime Condition Class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Potential Risks</b>
Condition Class 1	Within the natural (historical) range of variability of vegetation composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other characteristics; fuel associated disturbances	Fire behavior, effects, and other associated disturbances are similar to those that occurred prior to fire exclusion (suppression) and other types of management that do not mimic the natural fire regime and associated vegetation and fuel characteristics. Composition and structure of vegetation and fuels are similar to the natural (historical) regime. Risk of loss of key ecosystem components (e.g. native species, large trees, and soil) are low

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Condition Class 2	Moderate Departure from natural (historical) regime of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances	Fire behavior, effects, and other associated disturbances are moderately departed (more or less severe). Composition and structure of vegetation and fuel are moderately altered. Uncharacteristic conditions range from low to moderate; Risk of loss of key ecosystem components are moderate
Condition Class 3	High departure from the natural (historical) regime of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances	Fire behavior, effects, and other associated disturbances are highly departed (more or less severe). Composition and structure of vegetation and fuel are highly altered. Uncharacteristic conditions range from moderate to high. Risk of loss of key ecosystem components are high

## Kemmerer Field Office (KFO)

### **KFO 1, Star Valley:**

#### **1. Description of FMU**

- a. Location- This FMU is located in the northernmost part of the Field Office in the Star Valley area and consists primarily of a few scattered BLM parcels around Smoot, Osmond, Afton, Thayne, Bedford, Etna, and Alpine communities. This FMU totals 129,851 acres which includes 4,025 acres of BLM, 120,290 acres of private, 693 acres of Bureau of Reclamation, and 4,843 acres of State land.

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- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of mountainous areas and valley bottoms within the Star Valley area. Elevation ranges from 6,000 to 8,000 ft. Vegetation types within the FMU consists of mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, and sage/grass. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes some livestock grazing, and crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long habitat. The federal land consists of isolated parcels surrounded by private land. Some of these parcels have little or no access due to the adjacent private land. There are four federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat identified within the FMU which include Canada Lynx habitat, Gray Wolf habitat, Ute ladies-tresses habitat, and habitat for the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan Area. BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include Snake River Cutthroat trout, and northern goshawk.
- c. Fire History- Because of the small amount of BLM land within this FMU, there have been no reported fires between 1980 and 2003. There is the potential that lightning could cause fires on these scattered parcels as well as human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users. Wildland fires would typically occur between July 1 and October 30. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months lightning storms could bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir exist within the FR II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V. The majority of this FMU (70%) is in CC 2, 20% in CC3 and 10% in CC1.
- e. Values at Risk- The Star Valley area contains cultural resources, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. The Star Valley areas contain a significant amount of urban interface with numerous permanent residence, summer homes, and cabins. There are power line corridors, highways and commercial timber resources on Forest Service lands bordering most of the parcels.
- f. Communities at Risk- Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Alpine and Star Valley. There are numerous communities in the Star Valley area which include Etna, Freedom, Bedford, Turnerville, Thayne, Auburn, Grover, Afton, Osmond, Smoot, and Fairview.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

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The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and scattered aspen and conifer stands- are to protect resources at risk. There is a limited amount of wildlife habitat and important plant communities in this FMU. The parcels are small and intermingled with private, state, and other federal lands, therefore the objective would be to protect life, property, and resources at risk.

- a. Suppression Objectives- Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private, state, and USDA Forest Service lands, due to fires encroaching from adjacent BLM-administered lands.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Based on the small amount and size of the BLM parcels as well as being intermingled with private, state, and other federal lands there will be no objective that centers on wildland fire use, and prescribed burns will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) could be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulations.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- If needed, emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will be conducted to promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines and objectives established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects could be identified in the urban interface and in areas where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Alpine and Star Valley.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- Generally, wildland fires would be suppressed in this area with no more than 10% of public land to be burned or treated over the next twenty years. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at <15 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 40 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit will not be considered in this area due to the small amount of BLM land, and the large amount of urban interface and resources at risk in the area.

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- c. Prescribed Fire- Prescribed Fire Fuels treatments will be considered in this area on a case by case basis, based on the small amount of BLM land, and the large amount of urban interface and resources at risk in the area.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may be considered in this FMU to minimize hazardous fuel accumulations.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities, restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Non-fire fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in this wildland urban interface area to minimize threats to resources at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Alpine and Star Valley.

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## KFO 2, Raymond Mountain Wilderness Study Area:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located north of Cokeville and consists of the Raymond Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). This FMU totals 34,456 acres which includes 32,936 acres of BLM, 200 acres of private, and 1,320 acres of State Land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of the Raymond Mountain Wilderness Study Area, which includes mountainous areas on Raymond Mountain. Elevation ranges from 6,500 ft to 8,000 ft. Vegetation Types within the FMU consists of mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, and sage/grass communities. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, sage grouse habitat, and Bonneville Cutthroat Trout habitat. There are three federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat identified within the FMU which include Canada Lynx habitat, Gray Wolf habitat, and habitat for the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan Area. Other BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include Peregrine falcon, and northern goshawk.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions in this FMU. Human-caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users, as well as agricultural activities. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately four fires have occurred within the FMU. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months occasional lightning storms bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir exist within the FR II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V. The majority of the area (60%) is in CC 2, 30% of the area is CC 3 (which includes the cheat grass infestation on the west side of Raymond Mountain), and 10% of the area is CC 1.
- e. Values at Risk- The WSA contains cultural resources, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource specialist input. The Raymond Mountain WSA area contains Bonneville Cutthroat habitat, Ute ladies-tresses habitat, fences and exclosures, sage grouse winter habitat, plant community health with the occurrence of cheat grass. The WSA lies adjacent to

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private lands, which has structures and summer homes, as well as corrals, communication sites, and remnant mining structures. There are also two historic cabins on private land within the WSA located on private ground in the Huff Creek drainage.

- f. Communities at Risk- There are no Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and scattered aspen and conifer stands- are to maintain, enhance, and improve wilderness values, improve elk calving, big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, enhance Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat, improve upland plant community health, age class structure and diversity, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen, stimulate aspen and mixed mountain shrub regeneration, protect cultural and natural resources, and enhance wilderness values.

- a. Suppression Objectives- To maintain wilderness values and visual integrity no more than 40% of the WSA would be burned or treated in a 20 year period. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing impacts to the WSA values. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines, depending on resources at risk. All suppression actions within the WSA adhere to Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and Implementation Guidelines. Additional WSA guidelines for suppression include, but are not limited to: use of bulldozers or other heavy equipment is prohibited, only non-mechanical handtools may be used (no chainsaws), surface disturbing activities including temporary fire camps, helipads, and other sites used for fire suppression activities must be located out of the WSA . Use of the Huff Creek Road on the north end of the WSA is permitted. Landing aircraft of any type, except in life threatening situations, is prohibited. Minimize cutting of live and burned trees and snags. In the event that a tree poses a safety hazard and needs to be cut, trees should be cut flush to the ground and limbs should be scattered. Refrain from making piles and scatter limbs and burned material in a natural looking manner. Retardant and foam is prohibited within 200 feet of riparian areas and other sensitive resources.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class one and two. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition class two and three, and prevent invasive non-native species invasion specifically cheat grass. All air quality objectives will be met.

Landscape Objectives for Specific Upland Plant Communities:

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- Mixed Conifer. The landscape goal for mixed conifer stands is to create or maintain a mosaic of age classes and structure composition across the landscape, while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush and aspen communities.
  - Wyoming or Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland (S/G). See Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management.
  - Aspen. Aspen stands should be composed of a mosaic of different age-classes consisting of 30% of the stands with young trees, 50% with mixed ages of young to mature trees, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent trees.
  - Mixed Mountain Shrub. Mountain shrub communities include single-species dominated, or a mix of the following species: antelope bitterbrush, serviceberry, true mountain mahogany, curleaf mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, currant, and ceanothus. Mixed mountain shrub stands should be comprised of a mosaic of different age classes consisting of 30% of the communities in predominantly young shrubs, 50% in a mix of young-to-mature shrubs, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (chemical) may be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives if it meets specific wilderness criteria and objectives. Non-Fire (Mechanical) treatments will not be considered.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook, as well as meet WSA criteria and objectives. Rehabilitation guidelines found in the Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and Implementation Guidelines will also be adhered to in an effort to eliminate evidence of human-related impacts.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- There are no urban-interface areas where resources are at risk within the WSA, however there are summer homes located near the northern boundary and other resources at risk on the perimeter of the WSA that need to be considered in protecting resources at risk.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- No more than 40% of the WSA could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from spreading out of the WSA onto private land and other agency lands. Use AMR to manage fire in

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accordance with WSA values and vegetation objectives. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics Implementation Guidelines must be used in the WSA. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used within the WSA. All suppression actions within the WSA will adhere to Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and Implementation Guidelines. Use of fire suppression chemicals, including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 of surface water sources. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at < 5,000 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 5,000 acres 90 percent of the time.

- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit may be used when plans are in place, resource benefits can be achieved, and wilderness values can be preserved or enhanced. Wilderness objectives center around returning fire to a natural role in the ecosystem and that fire is a natural and necessary process in this ecosystem. Management of the WSA would center on Wildland Fire use with natural processes intact. Natural ignitions are an opportunity to manage as essential wilderness process
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation protect resources at risk, and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be considered when planning and implementing treatments. In order to meet wilderness objectives, prescribed fire may be used to reintroduce or maintain natural conditions of a fire dependant ecosystem. Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and Implementation Guidelines must also be followed while implementing prescribed burn activities. No prescribed burn treatments will be implemented in this FMU until pre- and post-burn management can be assured.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire chemical fuels treatment might be considered in this FMU if it is determined that it is the only treatment that would meet resource objectives and WSA criteria. Non-fire mechanical treatments will not be considered.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities, restore watershed function, enhance wilderness values, restore the visual integrity of the WSA, and to prevent the spread of cheatgrass.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- There are no Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU.

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## KFO 3, Smithsfork:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located northeast of Cokeville and consists primarily of the Smithsfork, upper Hamsfork, and upper Fontenelle Drainages. This FMU totals 171,413 acres which includes 79,049 acres of BLM, 70,138 acres of private, and 22,226 acres of State land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of mountainous areas including portions of Raymond Mountain, Commissary Ridge, and Dempsey Ridge. Elevation ranges from 6,500 to 9,300 ft. Vegetation Types within the FMU consists of mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, and sage/grass communities. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, sage grouse lek, nesting, winter, and brood rearing habitat, and Bonneville Cutthroat Trout habitat. There are nine federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat that have been identified within the FMU; a bald eagle nest in the Smithsfork drainage, two Lynx analysis units located in the Dempsey and Commissary Ridge areas, Gray Wolf habitat, habitat for the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan Area, Ute ladies-tresses habitat, and water for four Endangered Colorado River fishes. Additional BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include northern goshawk, and Colorado River Cutthroat.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions in this FMU. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 14 fires have occurred within the FMU. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months lightning storms could bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V) . Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III and 10-100 years for *Juniperous osteosperma* (Juniper) sites (FR I) . Aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and a small component of juniper exist within the FR I, II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V. The majority of the area (65%) is in CC 2, 25% of the area is CC 3 (which includes the cheat grass infestations), and 10% of the area is CC 1.

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- e. Values at Risk- The Smithsfork area contains cultural resources, therefore, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. This FMU contains some urban interface areas including a portion of the Commissary Ranches located on the north end of Sheep Mountain, ranches and cabins in the upper Hamsfork drainage, and structures located in Dipper Creek, the Smithsfork Drainage, and on the west and north side of Raymond Mountain. Other resources at risk include power line corridors, timber resources on adjoining Forest Service lands, and the Canyon Club located at the north-west corner of the FMU.
- f. Communities at Risk- Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of the Canyon Club located in the northwest of this FMU.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and scattered aspen and conifer stands- are to improve elk calving and big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, enhance Bonneville Cutthroat trout habitat, improve upland plant community health, age class structure and diversity, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen, stimulate aspen and mixed mountain shrub regeneration, and protect cultural and natural resources.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 30 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private land. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. Within Lynx analysis units manage suppression activities to comply with standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS).
- b. Wildland Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class one and two. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition class two and three, and prevent invasive non-native species invasion with the emphasis on limiting the spread of cheat grass and reducing its extent on the landscape. All air quality objectives will be met. Within the Dempsey Ridge and Commissary Ridge Lynx analysis units, prescribed burns will be planned in accordance with the standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS).

### Landscape Objectives for Specific Upland Plant Communities

- Mixed Conifer. The landscape goal for mixed conifer stands is to create or maintain a mosaic of age classes and structure composition across the landscape, while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush and aspen communities.

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- Wyoming or Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland. See Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management.
  - Aspen. Aspen stands should be composed of a mosaic of different age-classes consisting of 30% of the stands with young trees, 50% with mixed ages of young to mature trees, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent trees.
  - Mixed Mountain Shrub. Mountain shrub communities include single-species dominated, or a mix of the following species: antelope bitterbrush, serviceberry, true mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, currant, and ceanothus. Mixed mountain shrub stands should be comprised of a mosaic of different age classes consisting of 30% of the communities in predominantly young shrubs, 50% in a mix of young-to-mature shrubs, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent.
  - Juniper. The landscape objective for juniper is to maintain the current sites where old-age juniper is the Potential Natural Community (PNC), while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush/grassland communities on loamy sites.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) could be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects will be identified in the urban interface and in areas where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of the Canyon Club.
3. **Fire Management Strategies-**
- a. Suppression- No more than 30 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from threatening resources at risk, and manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire locations. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used without the consent from a resource advisor from the Kemmerer Field Office.

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Fire management activities near Forest Service lands would be coordinated with the Forest. Use of fire suppression chemicals, including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 feet of surface water sources. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at <4000 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at <2000 acres 90 percent of the time.

- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit may be used when plans are in place and resource benefits can be achieved. This area borders the Raymond Mountain WSA and the west portion of this FMU would provide opportunities in the future for wildland fire use.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulations, protect resources at risk, and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be considered when planning and implementing treatments.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of the Canyon Club.

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## KFO 4, Rock Creek/Slate Creek:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located north of Kemmerer and consists primarily of the Rock Creek, Hams Fork, and Pomeroy and Slate Creek drainages. This FMU totals 480,900 acres which includes 308,815 acres of BLM, 131,008 acres of private, 685 acres of Bureau of Reclamation, and 40,392 acres of State land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of mountainous areas including Commissary Ridge, Slate Creek Ridge and Dempsey Ridge. Elevation ranges from 6,500 to 9,500 ft. Vegetation Types within the FMU consists of mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, sage/grass, with limited saltbush and greasewood communities. This area contains large contiguous blocks of sagebrush habitat important to many sagebrush obligate species. The area has a small amount of cheat grass on the west side of the FMU. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, Bonneville Cutthroat Trout habitat, and the Morgan Canyon Bald Eagle roost. There are ten federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat that have been identified within the FMU, two Lynx analysis units located in the Dempsey and Commissary Ridge areas, Gray Wolf habitat, habitat for the Wyoming Grizzly Bear Management Plan Area, water for four Endangered Colorado River fishes, Bald Eagle nest and roost areas, Black Footed Ferret habitat, and Ute Ladies Tresses habitat. Additional BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewers Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, White Tailed Prairie Dog, Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Plover, and Pygmy Rabbit. There are also two endemic plant species located in this FMU which includes Dorn's and Tufted Twinpod.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions in this FMU. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 32 fires have occurred within the FMU. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir exist within the FR II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall

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into fire regimes IV and/or V, and 10-100 years for *Juniperous osteosperma* (Juniper) sites (FR I) . The majority of this FMU (70%) is in a CC 2, 20% in CC3 (which includes aspen communities and a cheatgrass component) and 10% in CC1.

- e. Values at Risk- The Rock Creek and Slate Creek areas contain significant cultural resources, therefore, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. There are numerous ranches and Cabins located on Fontenelle Creek, Slate Creek, Pomeroy Basin, Hamsfork, Rock Creek, and in the Commissary Ridge Areas. Pine Creek Ski Resort is also located in this FMU approximately seven miles east of Cokeville. Other resources at risk in this FMU consist of Fossil Butte National Monument ten miles west of Kemmerer, Aspen Springs (a small subdivision located a few miles north of Kemmerer), power line corridors, minimal oil and gas development, communication sites, proposed wind energy sites, the Morgan Canyon bald eagle roost, Kemmerer Gas Compressor station, and Lake Viva Naughton development.
- f. Communities at Risk- Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Cokeville, Pomeroy subdivision, Pine Creek Ski Area, Nugget Ranches and the Fontenelle subdivision area.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and scattered aspen and conifer stands- are to improve elk calving and big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, enhance Bonneville cutthroat trout, improve upland plant community health, age class structure and diversity, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen, stimulate aspen and mixed mountain shrub regeneration, and protect cultural and natural resources.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 35% of the crucial big game winter range in this FMU would be burned or treated over the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private land. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. Within Lynx analysis units manage suppression activities to comply with standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS).
- b. Wildland Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class one and two. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition class two and three, and prevent invasive non-native species invasion. Within the Dempsey Ridge and Commissary Ridge Lynx analysis units, prescribed burns will be planned in accordance with the standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS).

Landscape Objectives for Specific Upland Plant Communities

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- Mixed Conifer. The landscape goal for mixed conifer stands is to create or maintain a mosaic of age classes and structure composition across the landscape, while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush and aspen communities.
  - Wyoming or Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland. See Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management.
  - Aspen. Aspen stands should be composed of a mosaic of different age-classes consisting of 30% of the stands with young trees, 50% with mixed ages of young to mature trees, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent trees.
  - Mixed Mountain Shrub. Mountain shrub communities include single-species dominated, or a mix of the following species: antelope bitterbrush, serviceberry, true mountain mahogany, curleaf mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, currant, and ceanothus. Mixed mountain shrub stands should be comprised of a mosaic of different age classes consisting of 30% of the communities in predominantly young shrubs, 50% in a mix of young-to-mature shrubs, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent.
  - Juniper. The landscape objective for juniper is to maintain the current sites where old-age juniper is the Potential Natural Community (PNC), while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush/grassland communities on loamy sites.
  - Saltbush Desert Shrub. The landscape objective is to maintain current acreage of saltbush desert shrubs.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) will be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects will be identified in the urban interface and in areas where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Cokeville, Pomeroy subdivision, Pine Creek Ski Area, Nugget Ranches and the Fontenelle subdivision area.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

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- a. **Suppression-** No more than 40 percent of this FMU would burn or treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from threatening resources at risk, and manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire locations. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used without the consent from a resource advisor from the Kemmerer Field Office. Fire management activities near Fossil Butte National Monument would be coordinated with the Park Service. Use of fire suppression chemicals including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 feet of surface water sources. All fires occurring in the mixed mountain shrub communities at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-6 will be suppressed at <5,000 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring in timber types at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-4 will be suppressed at < 1500 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. **Wildland Fire Use-** Wildland fire use for resource benefit may be used when plans are in place and resource benefits can be achieved.
- c. **Prescribed Fire-** Fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, protect resources at risk, and meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be considered when planning and implementing treatments.
- d. **Non-Fire Fuels Treatments-** Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. **Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives-** The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. **Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives-** Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Cokeville, Pomeroy subdivision, Pine Creek Ski Area, Nugget Ranches and the Fontenelle subdivision area.

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## KFO 5, North Cumberland:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located west of Kemmerer and consists primarily of the north end of the Bear River Divide and the Twin Creek Drainage. This FMU totals 173,874 acres which includes 148,630 acres of BLM, 13,415 acres of private, and 11,829 acres of state land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of mountainous areas and upland hills including the north end of the Bear River Divide, the Twin Creek drainage, and Fossil Ridge. Elevation ranges from 6,500 ft. to 8,300 ft. Vegetation Types within the FMU consists of small areas of mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, and sage/grass communities. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, sage grouse lek, winter, nesting, and brood rearing habitat, Bonneville Cutthroat trout habitat, and the Nugget Canyon Bald Eagle roost. There are three federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat that have been identified within the FMU, Gray Wolf habitat, Ute Ladies Tresses habitat, and the Nugget Canyon Bald Eagle roost. Additional BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewers Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, White Tailed Prairie Dog, Burrowing Owl, and Pygmy Rabbit.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions in this FMU. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 9 fires have occurred within the FMU. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and a small component of juniper exist within the FR I, II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V, and 10-100 years for *Juniperous osteosperma* (Juniper) sites (FR I) . The majority of this FMU (55%) is in a CC 2, 30% in CC3 (which includes aspen communities and a cheatgrass component) and 15% in CC1.

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- e. Values at Risk- The North Cumberland area contains significant cultural resources, therefore, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. Other Resources at risk include the Road Hollow gas field which contains H<sub>2</sub>S gas wells, a few structures including a house at Orr, power line corridors, Twin Creek subdivision, railroad tracks, the Nugget Canyon Bald Eagle roost, and scattered range improvements.
- f. Communities at Risk- Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Sage Junction (Orr) and the Twin Creek Subdivision.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and scattered aspen and conifer stands- are to improve big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, enhance Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat, improve upland plant community health, age class structure and diversity, reduce juniper encroachment into sagebrush communities, limit sagebrush encroachment into aspen, stimulate aspen and mixed mountain shrub regeneration, and protect cultural and natural resources.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 40% of the crucial big game winter range in this FMU would be burned or treated over the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private land. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class one and two. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition class two and three, and prevent invasive non-native species invasion. All air quality objectives will be met.

### Landscape Objectives for Specific Upland Plant Communities

- Mixed Conifer. The landscape goal for mixed conifer stands is to create or maintain a mosaic of age classes and structure composition across the landscape, while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush and aspen communities.
- Wyoming or Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland. See Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management.
- Aspen. Aspen stands should be composed of a mosaic of different age-classes consisting of 30% of the stands with young trees, 50% with mixed ages of young to mature trees, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent trees.

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- Mixed Mountain Shrub. Mountain shrub communities include single-species dominated, or a mix of the following species: antelope bitterbrush, serviceberry, true mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, currant, and ceanothus. Mixed mountain shrub stands should be comprised of a mosaic of different age classes consisting of 30% of the communities in predominantly young shrubs, 50% in a mix of young-to-mature shrubs, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent.
  - Juniper. The landscape objective for juniper is to maintain the current sites where old-age juniper is the Potential Natural Community (PNC), while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush/grassland communities on loamy sites.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) will be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects will be identified in the urban interface and in areas where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Sage Junction (Orr), and the Twin Creek subdivision.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- As a result of an aggressive prescribed burn program in this area and prescribed fire treatments already on the ground, no more than 40 percent of the crucial big game winter range in this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from threatening resources at risk, and manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire locations. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used without the consent from a resource advisor from the Kemmerer Field Office. Use of fire suppression chemicals including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 feet of surface water sources. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at <1000 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 3000 acres 90 percent of the time.

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- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit may be used when plans are in place and resource benefits can be achieved.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation protect resources at risk, and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be considered when planning and implementing treatments.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Sage Junction (Orr), and the Twin Creek subdivision.

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## KFO 6, Bear River Divide/Carter:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located south of Kemmerer and consists primarily of the Carter Lease and the south part of the Cumberland to I-80. This FMU totals 802,933 acres which includes 344,949 acres of BLM, 430,595 acres of private, and 27,389 acres of State Land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of mountainous areas and upland hills including the south end of the Bear River Divide and the Carter Lease area. In this checker-board land pattern area there are places with limited access to public lands. Elevation ranges from 6,500 to 8,000 ft. Vegetation Types within the FMU consists of a few scattered pockets of mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, sage/grass, with some saltbush and greasewood communities. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, sage grouse habitat, and the Woodruff Narrows Bald Eagle roost. There are eight federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat that have been identified within the FMU, Gray Wolf habitat, Black Footed Ferret habitat, Ute ladies-tresses habitat, water for the four endangered Colorado River Fishes, and the Woodruff Narrows Bald Eagle roost. Additional BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewers Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, White Tailed Prairie Dog, Burrowing Owl, Dorn's twin pod, Bonneville Cutthroat trout habitat, and Pygmy Rabbit.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions in this FMU. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 49 fires have occurred within the FMU. There are active coal fires along Oyster Ridge within this FMU which have also caused ignitions in the past. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and a small component of juniper exist within the FR I, II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V, and 10-100 years for *Juniperous osteosperma* (Juniper) sites (FR I) . The majority of this FMU (75%) is

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in a CC 2, 20% in CC3 (which includes aspen communities and a cheatgrass component) and 5% in CC1.

- e. Values at Risk- This area contains significant cultural resources including the Bridger Antelope Trap (T17N R117W Sec 26), any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. There are numerous gas wells and two gas plants and associated facilities located on the Bear River Divide area (Carter Creek and Whitney Canyon Plants), and the Painter Reservoir gas unit. A small portion of the oil and gas has H<sub>2</sub>S gas also. There is also a wind farm located east of Highway 189 and just north of I-80. The P&M Coal Mine is also located in this FMU and sits just south-west of Kemmerer. Other Values at risk include power lines, communication sites, railroad tracks, the Woodruff Narrows Bald Eagle roost, Rock House in the Clear Creek drainage, Muddy Creek Compressor Station, Mulkay Ranch, Structures at Mulkay Springs, Cumberland Town site, and the sulfur pipeline and haul road.
- f. Communities at Risk- Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Bear River Divide (Gas Plants), and Evanston North. Other communities in this FMU that are not listed on the Federal Register include Opal, Oakley, Carter, Almy, Diamondville and Kemmerer.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and scattered aspen and conifer stands- are to improve big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, improve upland plant community health and age class structure and diversity, reduce juniper encroachment into sagebrush communities, stimulate aspen and mixed mountain shrub regeneration, and protect cultural and natural resources.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 30% of the crucial big game winter range in this FMU could be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private land. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class one and two. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition class two and three, and prevent invasive non-native species invasion.

Landscape Objectives for Specific Upland Plant Communities:

- Mixed Conifer. The landscape goal for mixed conifer stands is to create or maintain a mosaic of age classes and structure composition across the landscape, while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush and aspen communities.

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- Wyoming or Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland. See Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management.
  - Aspen. Aspen stands should be composed of a mosaic of different age-classes consisting of 30% of the stands with young trees, 50% with mixed ages of young to mature trees, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent trees.
  - Mixed Mountain Shrub. Mountain shrub communities include single-species dominated, or a mix of the following species: antelope bitterbrush, serviceberry, true mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, currant, and ceanothus. Mixed mountain shrub stands should be comprised of a mosaic of different age classes consisting of 30% of the communities in predominantly young shrubs, 50% in a mix of young-to-mature shrubs, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent.
  - Juniper. The landscape objective for juniper is to maintain the current sites where old-age juniper is the Potential Natural Community (PNC), while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush/grassland communities on loamy sites.
  - Saltbush Desert Shrub. The landscape objective is to maintain current acreage of saltbush desert shrubs.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) will be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects will be identified in the urban interface and in areas where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Evanston North, and Bear River Divide.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- No more than 30 percent of the crucial big game winter range in this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from threatening resources at risk, and manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire

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locations. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used without the consent from a resource advisor from the Kemmerer Field Office. Active suppression of wildland fire will be implemented in areas of checker-board land status, unless plans and agreements are in place which would allow for an alternate appropriate management response. Use of fire suppression chemicals including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 feet of surface water sources. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at < 600 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 600 acres 90 percent of the time.

- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit may be used when plans are in place and resource benefits can be achieved.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation protect resources at risk, and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be considered when planning and implementing treatments. All air quality objectives will be met.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland urban interface and areas of intermingled private land where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of North Evanston, and Bear River Divide.

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## KFO 7, Evanston/Bridger Valley:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located from Evanston along I-80 to the Utah border also east to Lyman following I-80 and consists primarily of private land with some scattered BLM lands. This FMU totals 405,981 acres which includes 45,688 acres of BLM, 336,594 acres of private, and 23,699 acres of state land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of upland hills and valley bottoms including a majority of the Bridger Valley and all of the area south of Evanston. The majority of this area is private land with some scattered BLM lands. In some areas of this FMU there is limited access as a result of the large amount of private land. Elevation ranges from 6,500 to 8000 ft. Vegetation Types within the FMU consists of some mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, sage/grass, and saltbush and greasewood communities. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, and sage grouse lek, nesting, winter, and brood rearing habitat. There are two federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat identified within this FMU, a Bald Eagle nest located along the Bear River and Ute ladies-tresses habitat. Additionally BLM Wyoming state sensitive species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include Prostrate bladderpod, Dorn's twinpod, and Tufted twinpod.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions in this FMU. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 6 fires have occurred within the FMU. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and a small component of juniper exist within the FR I, II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V, and 10-100 years for *Juniperous osteosperma* (Juniper) sites (FR I) . The majority of this FMU (80%) is in a CC 2, 10% in CC3 and 10% in CC1.

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- e. Values at Risk- This area contains significant cultural resources, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. The majority of this area is private land with many scattered tracts of land with residences and structures on it. There are also power lines, railroad tracks, Interstate 80 corridor, and numerous small communities. Other Values at risk include meteorological sites, Fort Bridger historical site, Piedmont historical site, and numerous oil and gas facilities with some H<sub>2</sub>S gas, and the Silver Creek Refinery.
- f. Communities at Risk- Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Robertson. Other communities in the area not identified in the Federal Register include Evanston, Lyman, Mountain View, Fort Bridger, Millburne, Hilliard, Piedmont, and Millis.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and scattered aspen, salt desert shrub and conifer stands- are to focus on protection of life and property and resources at risk based on the land pattern and small amounts of federal land.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 10 percent of this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private land. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Based on the small amount and size of the BLM parcels as well as being intermingled with private, state, and other federal lands there will be no objective that centers on fire use, and prescribed burns will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) could be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach site specific vegetative resource objectives.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects may be identified in the urban interface and in areas where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Robertson.

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## 3. Fire Management Strategies-

- a. Suppression- No more than 10 percent of this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from threatening private land and resources at risk, and manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire locations. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used without the consent from a resource advisor from the Kemmerer Field Office. Fire management activities near Forest Service lands would be coordinated with the Forest. Active suppression of wildland fire will be implemented in areas of checker-board land status, unless plans and agreements are in place which would allow for an alternate appropriate management response. Use of fire suppression chemicals including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 feet of surface water sources. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at <100 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 100 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit will not be considered at this time in this area based on the land pattern, and resources at risk in this FMU.
- c. Prescribed Fire- There are no prescribed fire fuels treatments planned at this time in this FMU based on the land pattern and resources at risk in this FMU.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may be considered in this FMU to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation and meet site specific resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Non-Fire Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire could be implemented in the wildland urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Robertson.

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## KFO 8, South Bridger:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located south of Lyman and consists primarily of the Meeks Cabin and Hickey Mountain area, and the Cottonwood Bench area. This FMU totals 188,733 acres which includes 113,460 acres of BLM, 71,628 acres of private, and 3,645 acres of state land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of upland hills and mountainous areas including the Meeks Cabin and Hickey mountain areas and the Cottonwood Bench area. In some areas of intermingled private land there is some limited access points. Elevation ranges from 6,600 to 8,000 ft. above mean sea level. Vegetation types within the FMU consist of mixed conifer forests, mixed mountain shrub, aspen, sage/grass, with limited saltbush and greasewood communities. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, and sage grouse lek, winter, nesting and brood rearing habitat. There are four federally-listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat identified within this FMU, which include water for the four endangered, Colorado River fishes.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions in this FMU. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 3 fires have occurred within the FMU. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations every month of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 85 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and a small component of juniper exist within the FR I, II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V, and 10-100 years for *Juniperous osteosperma* (Juniper) sites (FR I) . The majority of this FMU (70%) is in a CC 2, 20% in CC3 and 10% in CC1.
- e. Values at Risk- This area contains significant cultural resources, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. There are many private land residences and seasonal cabins located in this FMU including Tokewanna Estates. Other resources at risk in this FMU consist of

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some oil and gas wells located in the Hickey Mountain area, Timber Resources on BLM and adjoining Forest Service land, a youth camp in the Meeks Cabin area and power lines. There is a small area on the east boundary of this unit that borders some oil and gas activity that has the potential for H<sub>2</sub>S gas.

- f. Communities at Risk- Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Meeks Cabin.

## 2. Fire Management Objectives

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, scattered aspen and conifer stands- are to improve elk calving and big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, improve upland plant community health, age class structure and diversity, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen, stimulate aspen and mixed mountain shrub regeneration, and protect cultural and natural resources. Fire management activities near Forest Service lands would be coordinated with the Forest.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 20 percent of this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private land. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class one and two. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition class two and three, and prevent invasive non-native species invasion. Air quality objectives will be met.

### Landscape Objectives for Specific Upland Plant Communities

- Mixed Conifer. The landscape goal for mixed conifer stands is to create or maintain a mosaic of age classes and structure composition across the landscape, while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush and aspen communities.
- Wyoming or Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland. See Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management.
- Aspen. Aspen stands should be composed of a mosaic of different age-classes consisting of 30% of the stands with young trees, 50% with mixed ages of young to mature trees, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent trees.
- Mixed Mountain Shrub. Mountain shrub communities include single-species dominated, or a mix of the following species: antelope bitterbrush, serviceberry, true mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, currant, and ceanothus.

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Mixed mountain shrub stands should be comprised of a mosaic of different age classes consisting of 30% of the communities in predominantly young shrubs, 50% in a mix of young-to-mature shrubs, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent.

- Juniper. The landscape objective for juniper is to maintain the current sites where old-age juniper is the Potential Natural Community (PNC), while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush/grassland communities on loamy sites.
  - Saltbush Desert Shrub. The landscape objective is to maintain current acreage of saltbush desert shrubs.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) will be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
  - d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
  - e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects will be identified in the urban interface and in areas where resources are at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Meeks Cabin area.
3. **Fire Management Strategies-**
- a. Suppression- No more than 20 percent of this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from threatening private land, timber resources on Forest Service land, resources at risk, and manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire locations. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used without the consent from a resource advisor from the Kemmerer Field Office. Use of fire suppression chemicals including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 feet of surface water sources. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at < 100 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 100 acres 90 percent of the time.

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- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit may be used when plans are in place and resource benefits can be achieved.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulations, protect resources at risk, and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be considered when planning and implementing treatments.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Meeks Cabin area.

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## KFO 9, Moxa:

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located east of Kemmerer and consists primarily of the area from Fontenelle Reservoir south past Interstate 80 to the Field Office boundary on the east and south. This FMU totals 699,292 acres which includes 344,011 acres of BLM, 319,219 acres of private, 18,881 acres of Bureau of Reclamation, and 17,181 acres of state land.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of upland hills, sagebrush steppe, and badlands. Elevation ranges from 6,200 to 7,000 ft. Vegetation Types within the FMU consists of mixed mountain shrub, sage/grass, and saltbush and greasewood communities. Resources and use associated with this FMU includes livestock grazing, crucial big game winter, transitional, and year long range, and sage grouse lek, nesting, winter, and brood rearing habitat. Seven federally listed Threatened or Endangered species and/or habitat have been identified within the FMU, a Bald Eagle nest in the Green River Drainage, Black Footed Ferret habitat, Gray Wolf habitat, and water for the four Endangered Colorado River fish. Wyoming State Sensitive Species inhabiting this FMU considered in this plan include Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewers Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Mountain Plover, White Tailed Prairie Dog, and Pygmy Rabbit.
- c. Fire History- Although there have been limited fire activity in this FMU, lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between July 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 6 fires have occurred within the FMU. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations most months of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 90 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.
- d. Fire Regime (FR) /Condition Class (CC) - Fire return interval is approximately thirty years in the *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (mountain big sagebrush) sites (FR II), 60-100 in the *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (Wyoming big sagebrush) sites (FR III), 60-100 years in the mixed mountain shrub and 150-300 years in the mixed conifer sites (FR V). Mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the FR II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and a small component of juniper exist within the FR I, II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and/or V, and 10-100 years for *Juniperous osteosperma* (Juniper) sites (FR I) . The majority of this FMU (85%) is in a CC 2, 10% in CC3 (with some areas of non-native weed infestations) and 5% in CC1.

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- e. Values at Risk- This area contains significant cultural resources, any heavy equipment use or potential fire suppression impacts should have cultural resource input. This FMU contains intense oil and gas wells included in the Moxa Arch gas field with some H<sub>2</sub>S in the south portion of this unit. There are numerous ranches and structures located along the Hams Fork River. Other Values at risk include four trona mines with associated processing plants and railroads, power lines and substations, Interstate 80 corridor, Fontenelle, Little America, Granger, land bordering Seedskaadee National Wildlife refuge, numerous wildlife water developments (guzzlers), the Shute Creek Gas Plant, several large gas processing facilities, and three developed campsites located at Fontenelle Reservoir and along the Green River
- f. Communities at Risk- There are no Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU. Other communities located in this FMU not listed on Federal Register consist of Fontenelle, Granger, and Little America.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives for this FMU-consisting largely of mixed mountain shrub, and salt desert shrub communities- are to improve big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, improve upland plant community health and age class structure and diversity, and protect cultural and natural resources.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 20 percent of this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private land. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk.. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at < 100 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 100 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Fire Objectives – Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class one and two. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition class two and three, and prevent invasive non-native species invasion. Air quality objectives will be met.

### Landscape Objectives for Specific Upland Plant Communities

- Wyoming or Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland. See Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management.
- Mixed Mountain Shrub. Mountain shrub communities include single-species dominated, or a mix of the following species: antelope bitterbrush, serviceberry, true mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, currant, and ceanothus.

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Mixed mountain shrub stands should be comprised of a mosaic of different age classes consisting of 30% of the communities in predominantly young shrubs, 50% in a mix of young-to-mature shrubs, and 20% dominated by mature to decadent.

- Juniper. The landscape objective for juniper is to maintain the current sites where old-age juniper is the Potential Natural Community (PNC), while controlling encroachment of this community type into adjacent sagebrush/grassland communities on loamy sites.
  - Saltbush Desert Shrub. The landscape objective is to maintain current acreage of saltbush desert shrubs.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) will be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
  - d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
  - e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Hazardous fuel reduction projects could be identified in some industrial interface areas where resources are at risk. There are no Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- No more than 20 percent of this FMU could burn or be treated in the next 20 years. The priority for AMR is to prevent wildland fires from threatening resources at risk, oil and gas resources, and manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions and fire locations. Minimum impact suppression tactics should be used whenever possible or when property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads, riparian areas, and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible. At no time will bulldozers or graders be used without the consent from a resource advisor from the Kemmerer Field Office. Active suppression of wildland fire will be implemented in areas of checker-board land status, unless plans and agreements are in place which would allow for an alternate appropriate management response. Use of fire suppression chemicals including foaming agents and surfactants would not be allowed within 200 feet of surface water sources.

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- b. Wildland Fire Use- Although opportunities are limited based on resources at risk, wildland fire use for resource benefit may be used when plans are in place and resource benefits can be achieved and resources at risk could be protected.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Prescribed fire fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, protect resources at risk, and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be limited, but considered when planning and implementing treatments.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU.

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## Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO)

### **RSFO 1, Big Sandy and Steamboat Mountain**

#### **1. Description of FMU-**

- a. Location- This FMU is located in the central and northwestern portion of the RSFO. It includes the communities of Farson and Eden and that portion of the City of Rock Springs north of Interstate Highway 80. The FMU contains a total of 2,364,639 acres with 1,843,385 acres of Federal land, 442,719 acres of private surface and 78,535, acres of State of Wyoming Trust Land. The southern one third of the FMU is characterized by a “checkerboard” land pattern where even numbered sections are public and odd numbered sections are private.
- b. Characteristics - Interstate 80 forms the southern boundary and the major drainage system in the FMU consists of the Green River and its tributaries. This FMU consists of rolling sagebrush dominated areas to rocky ridges with aspen and juniper woodlands, active and stabilized sand dunes, playa lakes, geologic uplifts and deep canyons. Elevations range from approximately 6,600 to approximately 8,600 feet above sea-level. Vegetation within the FMU is dominated by sagebrush with smaller amounts of greasewood flats, mountain shrub, aspen, juniper, riparian and coniferous forest types. Major resource uses include livestock grazing, three wild horse management areas Little Colorado, White Mountain, and Great Divide Basin, wildlife habitat, dispersed recreation, historical interpretation and protection, Bridger Power Plant several communities, and oil and gas exploration and development. Two active coal mines, several abandoned coal mines, open seams exist in this FMU. Several special management areas are included within the FMU. These are identified in Values at risk and Fire Management Strategies.

Steamboat Mountain lies within the FMU. It contains unique vegetative communities and high value wildlife habitat. The Steamboat Mountain vegetative communities include associations of sagebrush with Utah snowberry and basin wild rye, bluebunch wheatgrass, and lemon scurf pea. In these communities, the primary resource management objective is to protect wildlife habitat. Generally, wildland fire is not desirable in the Steamboat Mountain area, although there may be opportunities for the use of prescribed fire or other vegetative treatment methods.

- a. Fire History- Although there have been limited fire activity in this FMU, lightning caused fires account for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fires are possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Wildland fires typically occur between June 1 and October 30. From 1980 to 2003 approximately 126 fires for 5,399 acres have occurred within the FMU. This represents an average of 5 wild fires per year on 43 acres per fire or 225 acres per year. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations most months of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 100

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degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months, some lightning storms bring wetting rain.

- b. Fire Regime/Condition Class- The major fuel types that could be expected to carry a fire are largely confined to the sagebrush and juniper woodland types in this FMU. These types are representative of fire regimes II and III.

Of the sagebrush type, Wyoming big sagebrush predominates. Fire return intervals are estimated at 60 – 100 years. Most of this fuel type is rated in condition class 1 or 2. Isolated stands of old and tall Basin big sagebrush occur in the area. Due to advanced age, most of this type is in condition class 3. The value of the tall sage to wildlife for cover negates opportunities for treatment.

Scattered stands of Utah juniper and limber pine are found in the FMU. Fuels in this type are rated as Condition Class I and II. Condition class II describes most of this type. Some stands of limber pine are in condition class III. Fire return intervals in the sagebrush type are 30 - 100 years and in the juniper type are 30 – 250 years. The juniper type occurs on sites with highly variable potential for vegetative production, therefore younger trees in deeper soils burn more frequently than older trees on rocky, thin soils. The Little Prospect mountains support coniferous forest composed of lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. These stands are classified as fire regime IV and condition class 3 with a fire return interval of 150 – 300 years.

- c. Values at Risk - This fire management area contains historic trails, special recreation management areas, and six ACECs: Steamboat Mountain, Natural Corrals, Cedar Canyon, White Mountain Petroglyphs, Greater Sand Dunes, and the South Pass Historic Landscape. Four WSAs are entirely or partially inside the areas. The WSAs are Whitehorse Creek, Oregon Buttes, Buffalo Hump, and Sand Dunes. There are also important scenic resources (Class II VRM areas). These areas will be managed in accordance with specific special management area objectives.

The FMU contains portions of the checkerboard land pattern, urban interface, major utility rights-of-way, and oil and gas fields. In these areas, appropriate management response to wildland fires would be practiced. Constraints applied to fire management activities would include protection of watershed, ACEC and other special management area values.

- d. Communities at Risk- There are no communities on the Federal Register. Communities in the FMU include Rock Springs, Farson, Eden, Superior, Reliance and Point of Rocks.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives-**

The primary resource management objectives for this areas, consisting largely of greasewood, desert shrub, sagebrush, riparian, and conifer vegetative communities—are to reduce conifer and

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sagebrush encroachment into aspen and mountain shrub communities, promote healthy timber regeneration, and improve habitat for big game and sage grouse, and maintain or enhance habitat for special status species (plant and animal). Other objectives are to improve forage for livestock and wild horses, protect range improvements, protect public and private property by reducing hazardous fuels near urban and industrial interface areas, and reduce fuels hazards in and around BLM administered recreation areas.

In those areas of the FMU that are predominantly BLM-administered lands (north of the checkerboard area), wildland, prescribed fire or other types of vegetative treatment could be used to meet resource management objectives.

- a. **Suppression Objectives-** No more than 20 percent BLM land could be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. To maintain wilderness values and visual integrity of the WSA.
- b. **Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives-** Fire occurrence in the FMU has been low historically. Fire has not been a major factor in sagebrush, Juniper and coniferous fuel types in most of the FMU. Opportunities for treatment with prescribed fire exist in some portions of the FMU (Jack Morrow Hills planning area, Little Prospect Mountain, and Prospect Mountain).

The landscape objective for this FMU is to maintain fuel condition classes 1 and 2, maintain and improve important wildlife habitat, maintain integrity of Lemon scurfpea/big sagebrush communities, protect sensitive species and threatened or endangered species, and prevent invasion by exotic species.

Landscape objectives for specific upland Plant Communities:

- **Mixed Conifer –** Maintain or create a mosaic of species and age class structure and promote stand health. Limit conifer to appropriate sites to prevent expansion into aspen and sagebrush/mountain shrub types.
- **Mountain Shrub –** Mountain shrub communities may contain one or several of the following species, serviceberry, antelope bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, and currants. Most mountain shrub types also contain a significant amount of sagebrush which provides competition with the mountain shrubs. The objectives for this type are to maintain and enhance areas of this type by reducing sagebrush competition, encourage species diversity and age class structure (25% young, 50% mature, 25% over-mature/decadent).
- **Aspen –** This type is very limited within the FMU. Previous attempts to encourage sprouting and reduce sagebrush competition in this type in the

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Steamboat mountain area were largely unsuccessful due to post-burn browsing by elk. Experience has shown that burning of isolated small patches of aspen are doomed by elk use. The large stands and amount of area covered by this type necessary to successfully treat with fire do not exist in the FMU. The objectives for this type are to maintain existing aspen stands by limiting competition from conifer and sagebrush and use by ungulates and encourage a diversity of age classes in aspen stands to reflect an ideal composition of 30% saplings, 60% young to mature trees, and 10% over-mature.

- Sagebrush/grassland – Maintain healthy sagebrush stands on appropriate sites. Manage sagebrush stands to achieve an ideal cover composition of 0 to 15% canopy cover (25%), 16% to 30% cover (60%), and greater than 30% cover (15%) as measured by the line intercept method.
  - Juniper – Maintain juniper stands on sites where juniper is the potential natural community (PNC) and limit expansion into non-suitable sites where sagebrush or mountain shrub is the PNC.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) could be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulations, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland/urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Federal Register Communities At Risk in the FMU.

## **2. Fire Management Strategies**

- a. Suppression- This FMU contains portions of the checkerboard land pattern, urban interface, coal mines, major utility rights-of-way, and oil and gas fields. In these areas, Appropriate Management Response to wildland fires would be practiced by BLM or other qualified personnel. Throughout the remainder of the FMU case-by-case decisions regarding fire suppression will be made consistent with the overall management objectives for the affected areas. Overall, up to 20% of this FMU could be burned or treated over the next 20 years to achieve resource management objectives. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at < 100 acres 95 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 150 acres 90 percent of the time.

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These areas will be managed in accordance with specific special management area objectives. MIST or light hand tactics listed above will be followed in these areas. In addition landing aircraft of any type should be minimized and with resource advisor approval, except in life treating situations. Helipads may be used upon receiving permission of the RSFO Field Manager, but must be limited to the minimum necessary for suppression. Minimize cutting of live and burned trees and snags. In the event that a tree poses a safety hazard and needs to be cut, trees should be cut flush to the ground and naturalized, and limbs should be scattered. Refrain from making piles. Scatter limbs and burned material in a natural looking manner. Other area specific measures are as follows:

- Wildland fires will be suppressed to a size no larger than 15 acres in the Steamboat Mountain ACEC when possible. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-6 will be suppressed at < 15 acres 90 percent of the time.
  - In the South Pass Historic Landscape ACEC use natural barriers, or fuel breaks as possible, minimize visual impacts, no motorized vehicle use on historic trails unless approved by the Field Manager
  - Any fires greater than 5 acres in the Steamboat Mountain, Monument Ridge, North Table Mountain, South Table Mountain, Boars Tusk, and White Mountain areas will require cultural resource advisor input.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use to achieve resource objectives may be utilized where plans are approved and resources will benefit.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Prescribed fire fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, protect resources at risk, and meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be limited, but considered when planning and implementing treatments.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the

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wildland/urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Federal Register Communities At Risk in the FMU.

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## RSFO 2, Sweetwater

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- The FMU is located in the extreme northeastern portion of the RSFO. It includes all lands north and east of the Sweetwater River. The FMU is adjacent to the Shoshone National forest along its northern edge. The FMU contains a total of 87,990 acres with 64,685 acres administered by the BLM; 15,001 acres of private surface and 8,087 acres of State of Wyoming Trust Land. The area is drained by the Sweetwater River and its tributaries. There are scattered ranches throughout the area, but no communities are located within the FMU.
- b. Characteristics- This FMU consists of rolling sagebrush dominated areas to rocky ridges with limber and lodgepole pine stands. A majority of the FMU is comprised of the toe slopes of the Wind River Mountains. The Sweetwater River forms the southern boundary and is the major drainage in the FMU. Elevations range from approximately 6,600 to approximately 8,000 feet above sea-level. Vegetation within the FMU is dominated by sagebrush with smaller amounts of mountain shrub, aspen, juniper, riparian and coniferous forest types. Major resource uses include livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, dispersed recreation, historical interpretation and protection and limited oil and gas exploration and development. Several special management areas are included within the FMU including the Wind River Front SRMA, The Sweetwater Wild and Scenic river segment and the Lander Cut-off of the Oregon Trail system, Special Status Plant Species ACEC.
- c. Fire History- The area has a low to moderate fire frequency with 14 fires burning a total of 3,524 acres occurring between 1980 and 2003. This represents an average of < 1 wild fire per year on 147 acres per fire or 135 acres per year. Wildland fires typically occur between June 1 and October 30 with the majority of ignitions being lightning-caused. Human-caused fires (typically inadvertently started by recreational users and industrial operations) are possible.

There are opportunities for using wildland and prescribed fire to meet resource management objectives. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations most months of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 100 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.

- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Sagebrush fuel types (fire regime II) are rated in condition Class 1 and 2. Fire return intervals in the sagebrush type are 30 - 100 years. Juniper types are rated as CC 1 and 2 and coniferous types (mixed lodgepole and limber pine with sub alpine fir) are rated at CC of 2 and 3. Fire return intervals in the juniper type are 30 –250 years and the conifer type 150 – 300 years.

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- e. Values at Risk- The area contains sensitive resources including one ACEC (special status plants), special recreation management areas (part of the Wind River Front SMA), and wild and scenic river values.
- f. Communities at Risk- There are no Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU. There are several ranches within the FMU.

## **Fire Management Objectives-**

The primary resource management objectives for this areas – consisting largely of sagebrush, riparian, and conifer vegetative communities—are to reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen and mountain shrub communities, promote healthy timber regeneration, and improve habitat for big game and sage grouse, and maintain or enhance habitat for special status species (plant and animal). Other objectives are to improve forage for livestock, wildlife, protect range improvements, protect public and private property by reducing hazardous fuels near urban interface, and reduce fuels hazards in and around BLM administered recreation areas.

In those areas of the FMU that are predominantly BLM-administered lands, wildland, prescribed fire or other types of vegetative treatment could be used to meet resource management objectives.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 10 percent BLM land could be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. To maintain wilderness values and visual integrity of the WSA.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Fire occurrence in the FMU has been low to moderate historically. Fire has not been a major factor in sagebrush, juniper and coniferous fuel types in most of the FMU. Larger fires have occurred in coniferous fuel types on the adjacent National Forest. Opportunities for treatment with prescribed fire are limited in this FMU.

The landscape objective for this FMU is to maintain fuel conditions classes I and II, maintain and improve important wildlife habitat, protect sensitive species and threatened or endangered species, maintain high quality viewsheds and airsheds, protect segments of historic trails and prevent invasion by exotic species.

Landscape objectives for specific upland Plant Communities:

- Mixed Conifer – Maintain or create a mosaic of species and age class structure and promote stand health. Limit conifer to appropriate sites to prevent expansion into aspen and sagebrush/mountain shrub types.

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- Mountain Shrub – Mountain shrub communities may contain one or several of the following species, serviceberry, antelope bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, and currants. Most mountain shrub types also contain a significant amount of sagebrush which provides competition with the mountain shrubs. Maintain and enhance areas of mountain shrub by reducing sagebrush competition and encourage species diversity and age class structure (30% young, 50% mature, 20% over-mature/decadent).
  - Aspen – There are large Aspen stands throughout the FMU. Maintain existing aspen stands by limiting competition from conifer and sagebrush and use by ungulates and encourage a diversity of age classes in aspen stands to reflect an ideal composition of 30% saplings, 60% young to mature trees, and 10% over-mature.
  - Sagebrush/grassland – Maintain healthy sagebrush stands on appropriate sites. Manage sagebrush stands to achieve an ideal cover composition of 0 to 15% canopy cover (25%), 16% to 30% cover (50%), and greater than 30% cover (25%).
  - Juniper – Maintain juniper stands on sites where juniper is the potential natural community (PNC) and limit expansion into non-suitable sites where sagebrush or mountain shrub is the PNC.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) could be used to reduce hazardous fuel accumulations, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland/urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Federal Register Communities At Risk in the FMU.

## **2. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- This FMU contains portions of the urban interface. Full suppression will be taken in these areas. Throughout the remainder of the FMU case-by-case decisions (Appropriate Management Response) regarding fire suppression will be made consistent with the overall management objectives for

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the affected areas. Overall, up to 20% of BLM land could be burned or treated over the next 20 years to achieve resource management objectives. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at < 500 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 150 acres 90 percent of the time.

This fire management unit contains the Lander Cutoff historic Trail, Sweetwater Bridge, Sweetwater Guard Station and the Wind River Front special recreation management areas, Sweetwater Wild and Scenic River, and Special Status Plant Species ACEC. These areas will be managed in accordance with specific special management area objectives. MIST or light hand tactics listed above will be followed in these areas. Minimize cutting of live and burned trees and snags. In the event that a tree poses a safety hazard and needs to be cut, trees should be cut flush to the ground and naturalized, and limbs should be scattered. Refrain from making piles. Scatter limbs and burned material in a natural looking manner. Other area specific measures are as follows:

- In the Special Status Plant Species ACEC no retardant is allowed and vehicles are prohibited in the enclosure without Field Manager approval. Landing helicopters requires resource advisor approval unless a life threatening situation occurs.
  - No vehicles or equipment are allowed on the unimproved portions of the Lander Cutoff Historic Trail, unless authorized by the Rock Springs Field Manager.
  - Full suppression tactics will be used within ¼ mile of the Sweetwater Bridge and Sweetwater Guard Station campground areas.
- b) Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use to achieve resource objectives may be utilized where plans are approved and resources will benefit.
- c) Prescribed Fire- Prescribed fire fuels treatments and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be limited, but considered when planning and implementing treatments.
- d) Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e) Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f) Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the

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wildland/urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Federal Register Communities At Risk in the FMU.

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## RSFO 3, Red Desert

### Description of FMU

- a. Location- The FMU is located entirely within the Red Desert Closed Basin. Boundaries of the FMU are; the Rawlins FO boundary on the east, and the west branch of the Continental Divide on the north, west and south. The FMU contains a total of 643,270 acres with 479,868 acres administered by the BLM; 144,385 acres of private surface and 19,017 acres of State of Wyoming Trust Land. There is no human habitation and no communities in the FMU. A small amount of natural gas development has occurred and more is expected in the future.
- b. Characteristics- The area includes some checkerboard lands, major utilities, oil and gas fields, the Great Divide Basin wild horse herd management area. Five WSAs and one ACEC in the area. These are Honeycomb Buttes, Oregon Buttes, South Pinnacles, Alkali Basin/East Sand Dunes, and Red Lake WSAs and the Oregon Buttes ACEC. Portions of the ACEC have significant wildlife habitat or cultural values need to be protected from wildland fire. Vegetation in the FMU consists of sagebrush, greasewood, saltbush, and small amounts of juniper and aspen. There are several alkali lakes, playa lakes, sand dunes (active and stable), and special status species plants and animals including sage grouse throughout the area.
- c. Fire History- The area has a low to moderate fire frequency with 3 fires in 20 years burning a total of 187 acres occurring between 1980 and 2003. This represents an average of < 1 wild fire per year on 62 acres per fire or 9 acres per year. Wildland fires typically occur between June 1 and October 30 with the majority of ignitions being lightning-caused. Human-caused fires (typically inadvertently started by recreational users and industrial operations) are possible.
- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Sagebrush fuel types (fire regime II) are rated in condition Class 1 with a smaller portion of this type in condition class 2. Juniper types are rated as CC 1 and 2. The only other major vegetation types are grassland, salt desert shrub, and greasewood none of these types are likely to support fire.
- e. Values at Risk - The area includes gas fields, segments of historic trails, five WSAs and one ACEC.
- f. Communities at Risk- There are no Communities at Risk identified in the Federal Registry in this FMU. No communities exist in the FMU.

### Fire Management Objectives

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 5 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1 - 6 will be suppressed at < 10 acres 90 percent of the time. Provide for human health

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and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk through use of Appropriate Management Response.

- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Fire occurrence in the FMU has been low historically. Fire has not been a major factor in sagebrush, and juniper fuel types in most of the FMU. Opportunities for treatment with prescribed fire are limited in this FMU.

The landscape objective for this FMU is to maintain fuel conditions classes 1 and 2, maintain and improve important wildlife habitat, protect sensitive species and threatened or endangered species, maintain high quality viewshed and airsheds, protect segments of historic trails and prevent invasion by exotic species.

Landscape objectives for specific upland Plant Communities:

- Aspen – This type is limited within the FMU. The large stands and amount of area covered by this type necessary to successfully treat with fire do not exist in the FMU. The objectives for this type are to maintain existing aspen stands by limiting competition from conifer and sagebrush and use by ungulates and encourage a diversity of age classes in aspen stands to reflect an ideal composition of 30% saplings, 60% young to mature trees, and 10% over-mature.
  - Sagebrush/grassland – Maintain healthy sagebrush stands on appropriate sites. Manage sagebrush stands to achieve an ideal cover composition of 0 to 15% canopy cover (30%), 16% to 30% cover (60%), and greater than 30% cover (20%).
  - Juniper – Maintain juniper stands on sites where juniper is the potential natural community (PNC) and limit expansion into non-suitable sites where sagebrush or mountain shrub is the PNC.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) could be used to reduce hazardous fuel accumulations, as well as treat to reach vegetative resource objectives.
  - d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.

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- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the industrial interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Federal Register Communities At Risk in the FMU.

## **Fire Management Strategies**

- a) Suppression- Overall, up to 5% of the public land in this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. On all BLM lands within the FMU light on the land suppression tactics will be used whenever property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible and tacitly affective. At no time will bulldozers be used without the written consent of the Rock Springs Field Manager. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 200 feet of riparian, wetland areas, and other sensitive resources. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within ¼ mile (1320ft.) of rock art unless authorized by a Rock Springs resource advisor. Prevent surface disturbing activity and retardant drop on known special status species. Within the WSAs and ACEC specific guidelines for suppression are referred to in the Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics Implementation Guidelines and the manual H-8550-1 Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review. The guidelines strategies are, to provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing impacts to the WSA values. Surface disturbing activities including temporary fire camps and other sites used for fire suppression activities must be located out of the WSA. Travel is limited to existing roads and trails. Landing aircraft of any type should be avoided, except in life treating situations. Helipads may be used upon receiving permission of the resource advisor, but must be limited to the minimum necessary for suppression. Minimize cutting of live and burned trees and snags. In the event that a tree poses a safety hazard and needs to be cut, trees should be cut flush to the ground and naturalized, and limbs should be scattered. Refrain from making piles. Scatter limbs and burned material in a natural looking manner. Other specific site concerns are as follows:
  - Any fires greater than 5 acres in the Buffalo Hump area will require cultural resource advisor input.
- b) Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use to achieve resource objectives may be utilized where plans are approved and resources will benefit.
- c) Prescribed Fire- Prescribed fire fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, protect resources at risk, and meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be limited, but considered when planning and implementing treatments.

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- d) Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e) Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.

Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the wildland/urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Federal Register Communities At Risk in the FMU.

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## RSFO 4, Little Mountain

### Description of FMU-

- a. Location- The Little Mountain FMU encompasses all of the RSFO that lies south of US Interstate Highway 80. The area is very large extending from Adobe Town on the east to Hickey Mountain on the west (approximately 120 miles). The FMU contains a total of 2,117,874 acres with 1,399,262 acres administered by the BLM; 6,199 acres administered by the USDA Forest Service; 633,928 acres of private surface and 77,678 acres of State of Wyoming Trust Land.
- b. Characteristics- Because of the large area represented by the FMU, the character of the area is highly variable. Land types range from largely un-vegetated badland to lushly vegetated high mountains. Elevations range from approximately 6,000 feet above sea level to nearly 10,000 feet at the summit of Pine Mountain.  
Major vegetation types include sagebrush/grassland, grassland, juniper woodland, riparian, mountain shrub, salt desert shrub, aspen woodland, coniferous forest and greasewood.

Within the FMU are four subunits, the Little Mountain, Pine Mountain, Aspen Mountain, and Pine Butte. These areas were segregated for increased management attention due to fuel types, critical resource values, high recreational use and T&E species (Little Mountain, Pine Mountain, and Pine Butte) and high value communications concentration in the Wildland Urban Interface on Aspen Mountain. The predominant fuel type in the Pine Mountain, Little Mountain and Pine Butte areas is coniferous forest. The common species in this type are lodgepole and limber pine, sub-alpine fir and Douglas fir. In the Aspen Mountain, the predominant fuel type is grassland with a minor component of sagebrush /grass and aspen woodland.

The area provides important habitat to a wide variety of wildlife species including pronghorn, elk, mule deer, moose, and sage grouse, white-tailed prairie dogs, other rodents and mammalian predators, raptors and songbirds, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. The Colorado River Cutthroat Trout is well represented in streams in the Little Mountain and Pine Mountain areas. Existing Land uses include dispersed recreation, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and development, and wildlife habitat.

- c. Fire History- From the period between 1980 and 2003 there have been 623 fires that burned a total of 83,807 acres. This represents an average of 26 wild fires per year on 135 acres per fire or 3492 acres per year. Wildland fires typically occur between June 1 and October 30 with the majority of ignitions being lightning-caused. Fire occurrence in this FMU is high, especially in and around the Little and Pine Mountain areas. The vast majority of natural ignitions in the southwest zone occur in this FMU. Human-caused fires (typically inadvertently started by recreational

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users and industrial operations) are possible. Historical weather data indicates frost could occur in the higher elevations most months of the year. Maximum temperatures for the FMU rarely exceed 100 degrees during the fire season. Throughout the summer months some lightning storms bring wetting rain.

- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Sagebrush fuel types (fire regime II) are rated in condition Class 1 and 2. Juniper types (fire regime III or IV) are rated as CC 1 and 2 and coniferous types (fire regime IV) are rated at CC of 2 and 3.
- e. Values at Risk - The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, administered by the Forest Service, borders this fire management area along with the Wasatch-Cache and Ashley National Forests. There are three WSAs within this fire management area. These are Devils Playground/Twin Buttes, Red Creek, and Adobe Town. There are also three ACECs: Pine Springs, Greater Red Creek, and a portion of the Special Status Plant Species ACEC. The objectives for the Pine Springs ACEC include maintaining or enhancing important cultural, historic, and prehistoric values (see page 4-5 in RMP). Objectives for Greater Red Creek include maintaining or enhancing fragile soils, Colorado River cutthroat trout habitat, and water quality (see RMP page 34 for objectives). The objectives for the Special Status Plant Species ACEC include maintaining or enhancing plant species and their habitats. There are several gas and oil plants, pipelines, and associated facilities throughout the FMU.

Three other special management areas also exist in this area. They are Monument Valley, Pine Mountain, and Sugarloaf Basin. The primary objective for Monument Valley is to protect wildlife, geologic, cultural, watershed, and scientific values.

- f. Communities at Risk- This fire management area contains urban interface including the communities of Rock Springs and Green River and their surrounding residential areas, Table Rock, McKinnon, and Lonetree. None of these communities are listed in the Federal Register.

## **1. Fire Management Objectives-**

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 25 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk.

The landscape objective for this FMU is to maintain or achieve fuel conditions classes I and II, maintain and improve watershed condition and important wildlife habitat, protect sensitive species and threatened or endangered species habitats, maintain high quality viewshed and airsheds, protect segments of historic trails and prevent invasion by invasive species.

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Landscape objectives for specific upland Plant Communities:

- Mixed Conifer – Maintain or create a mosaic of species and age class structure and promote stand health. Limit conifer to appropriate sites to prevent expansion into aspen and sagebrush/mountain shrub types.
  - Mountain Shrub – Mountain shrub communities may contain one or several of the following species, serviceberry, antelope bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, snowberry, chokecherry, and currants. Most mountain shrub types also contain a significant amount of sagebrush which provides competition with the mountain shrubs. The objectives for this type are to maintain and enhance areas of this type by reducing sagebrush competition and encourage species diversity and age class structure (30% young, 50% mature, 20% over-mature/decadent).
  - Aspen – This type is abundant in the Little Mountain and Pine Mountain areas and potential for increased acreage of this type with the use of fire exists. The large stands and amount of area covered by this type necessary to successfully treat exist in the FMU. The objectives for this type are to maintain existing aspen stands by limiting competition from conifer and sagebrush and use by ungulates and encourage increased acreage of this type and a diversity of age classes in aspen stands to reflect an ideal composition of 30% saplings, 60% young to mature trees, and 10% over-mature.
  - Sagebrush/grassland – Maintain healthy sagebrush stands on appropriate sites and manage sagebrush stands to achieve an ideal cover composition of 0 to 15% canopy cover (30%), 16% to 30% cover (50%), and greater than 30% cover (20%).
  - Juniper – Maintain juniper stands on sites where juniper is the potential natural community (PNC) and limit expansion into non-suitable sites where sagebrush or mountain shrub is the PNC
- b. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The implementation of non-fire fuel treatments (mechanical and chemical) could be used to help reduce hazardous fuel accumulations, as well as treat vegetation to reach vegetative resource objectives.
- c. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- d. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented in the

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wildland/urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. There are no Federal Register Communities At Risk in the FMU.

## 2. Fire Management Strategies-

- a. Suppression- On all BLM lands within the FMU light on the land suppression tactics will be used whenever property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible and tacitly affective. At no time will bulldozers be used without the written consent of the Rock Springs Field Manager. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 1/4 mile (1320 ft) of rock art sites unless authorized by a Rock Springs resource advisor, and 200 feet of riparian, wetland areas, and other sensitive resources. Prevent surface disturbing activity and retardant drop on known special status species. Within the WSA specific guidelines for suppression are referred to in the Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics Implementation Guidelines and the manual H-8550-1 Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review. The guidelines strategies are, to provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing impacts to the WSA values. Surface disturbing activities including temporary fire camps and other sites used for fire suppression activities must be located out of the WSA. Travel is limited to existing roads and trails. Landing aircraft of any type should be avoided, except in life treating situations. Helipads may be used upon receiving permission of the resource advisor, but must be limited to the minimum necessary for suppression. Minimize cutting of live and burned trees and snags. In the event that a tree poses a safety hazard and needs to be cut, trees should be cut flush to the ground and naturalized, and limbs should be scattered. Refrain from making piles. Scatter limbs and burned material in a natural looking manner. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1- 6 will be suppressed at < 2500 acres 90 percent of the time. Special suppression considerations are required in the following areas:
  - In the Special Status Plant Species ACEC, within the McKinnon enclosure no vehicles are allowed. In the remaining portions of the ACEC, vehicles are limited to existing roads and trails.
  - Any fires greater than 5 acres in the Little Mountain, Teepee Mountain, and Aspen Mountain areas will require cultural resource advisor input.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use to achieve resource objectives may be utilized where plans are approved and resources will benefit.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Prescribed fire and fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation, protect resources at risk, and to meet vegetation objectives of improving plant community health will be implemented.

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- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may also be considered in this FMU to meet resource objectives.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments and appropriate management response to wildland fire will be implemented at the wildland urban interface to minimize threats to resources at risk. Communities at risk identified in the Federal Register in this FMU consist of Rock Springs and Green River, Reliance, Superior, James Town, Table Rock, McKinnon, and Lonetree, and Point of Rocks.

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## Pinedale Field Office (PFO)

### **PFO 1, Wind River Front**

#### **1. Description of FMU-**

- a. Location- The Pinedale Field Office (PFO) fire management unit (FMU) 1 (PFO-1) is located on the northern and eastern most portions of the PFO and is bordered by Bridger Teton National Forest (FS) lands. The southern boundary starts where Chall creek crosses the FS boundary in the northwest corner of the PFO. The boundary follows Chall creek east, joining South Beaver creek and then Beaver creek. At Bronx, County Road 150 crossing State Highway 191/189 continuing on County Road 149 delineates the boundary. The boundary continues east crossing the Cora road on County Road 120 and turns south at Willow creek continuing south down the New Fork river. At the confluence of the New Fork and West Fork rivers, the boundary turns east. The boundary follows the West Fork River upstream to the confluence of Muddy creek. From the confluence of Muddy creek and the West Fork River, the boundary is west of Muddy creek and follows the BLM/Private boundary south to the PFO boundary. This area total 320,408 acres, and encompasses 214,750 acres of private land, 80,026 acres of BLM administered land (7,724 within the Scab Creek WSA), and 23,392 acres of State land.
- b. Characteristics- The dominant vegetation in the FMU consists of aspen, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas fir, mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush. Use of the FMU includes livestock grazing, big game winter and transitional ranges, Pronghorn Antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and Sage Grouse habitat. Presence of or habitat for the federally listed threatened or endanger species Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Black Footed Ferret, and Bald Eagle has been identified within the FMU. There is lynx analysis units associated with this FMU. BLM sensitive species within the FMU include, but not limited to, Pygmy Rabbits and Sage Grouse. Other BLM sensitive species are identified on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list (BLM manual 6840). The Scab Creek WSA is located within the FMU. The entire FMU is a high recreation use area.
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fire accounts for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fire is possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Suppression fires typically occur between July 1 and September 30. From 1980-2002 there have been 28 fires for 5143 acres in the FMU.
- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Fire return interval for aspen is 50-120 years lodgepole pine 100 - 300, Engelmann spruce >150, subalpine fir 300-350,

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Douglas fir 25-100, mountain big sagebrush 15-40, basin big sagebrush 12-43, and Wyoming big sagebrush 60-100. The mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the fire regimes II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir fall into the fire regimes II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and V. The majority of the FMU (60-80%) is considered to be in conditions class 2, there is 10-20% in condition class 3, and 10 to 20% in condition class 1.

- e. Values at Risk - Boulder Lake on BLM land contains significant archaeological deposits. Any dozer work or fire camp setup should have cultural resource input. Scab Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is located within the FMU and contains numerous recorded historic cabins. Finis Mitchell's cabin (located 300 meters west of Struggle Up Springs) should be evaluated for inclusion in a protective thinning project, as dead 100 to 1,000 hour fuels are located in the immediate cabin vicinity. The cabin's status near the WSA will need to be taken into consideration, with nonimpairment of WSA values addressed/evaluated for any proposed thinning projects within the Scab Creek WSA. Other known historic cabins in the WSA should also be evaluated for protective (thinning) projects, per the above. Additionally, the Lander Trail is located between Buckskin Crossing and Highway 191 (see map). Any fire suppression or dozer work in the Lander Trail vicinity should have cultural resource input. An air quality and acid rain monitoring station (NADP site) exists on the east of Fremont Lake and it would need protection from wildland fire. The Fall Creek, Scab Creek, Muddy Creek, and Franz Elk Feed ground operated by the WGFD are found in this area. The Upper Green River and Boulder SRMA and associated recreation facilities are located within the FMU. Air Force seismic monitoring facilities. U.S. Highway 189-191 runs North and South through the area where smoke could be a safety concern.
- f. Communities at Risk- There is a limited amount of public land in this area, and it is intermingled with developed private property and urban interface. It encompasses the cities of Pinedale, Boulder, and surrounding subdivisions, including but not limited to, Hoback Ranches, Upper Green River, Pocket Creek, and miscellaneous ranches and cabins.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives are to improve forage availability in the uplands to draw livestock use away from riparian areas, maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, sustain aspen communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment and stimulate aspen regeneration, promote healthy timber regeneration, protect cultural resources, limit hazardous fuels in and around the wildland urban interface, to protect and manage for wilderness characteristics and values where appropriate, and return to natural fire regime.

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- a. **Suppression Objectives-** No more than 30 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. Within Lynx analysis units manage suppression activities to comply with standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS). To maintain wilderness values and visual integrity of the WSA.
- b. **Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives-** The objectives are to restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition classes 2 or 3. Plant communities within the landscape should generally fall into 3 categories: 15-25% early seral stage, 50-70% mid-seral stage and 15-25% late seral stage.
- c. **Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives-** The objectives are to use mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment to reduce fuel loads and create a vegetative mosaic, with an emphasis on restoring or maintaining as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1 in an effort to prevent uncharacteristic wildland fire.
- d. **Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives-** Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site-by-site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. **Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives-** The objectives are to perform hazardous fuel reduction in an around the wildland urban interface.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. **Suppression-** On all BLM lands within the FMU light on the land suppression tactics will be used whenever property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible and tacitly affective. At no time will bulldozers be used without the written consent of the Pinedale Field Manager. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 200 feet of riparian, wetland areas, other sensitive resources, and developed and semi-developed campsites exist along the Green River and at the Warren Bridge campground. Prevent surface disturbing activity and retardant drop on known special status species. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-2 will be suppressed at < 200 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at

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Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 3-6 will be suppressed at < 1000 acres 90 percent of the time.

- Within the WSA specific guidelines for suppression are referred to in the Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics Implementation Guidelines and the manual H-8550-1 Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review. The guidelines strategies are, to provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing impacts to the WSA values. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. All suppression actions within the WSA will adhere to Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and Implementation Guidelines. Additional WSA guidelines for suppression include, but are not limited to, use of dozers or other heavy equipment are prohibited (unless authorized in writing by the PFO Field Manager), only chain saws and non-mechanical hand tools may be used. Surface disturbing activities including temporary fire camps and other sites used for fire suppression activities must be located out of the WSA. Landing aircraft of any type should be avoided, except in life threatening situations. Helipads may be used upon receiving written permission of the PFO Field Manager, but must be limited to the minimum necessary for suppression. Minimize cutting of live and burned trees and snags. In the event that a tree poses a safety hazard and needs to be cut, trees should be cut flush to the ground and naturalized, and limbs should be scattered. Refrain from making piles. Scatter limbs and burned material in a natural looking manner. Retardant and foam is prohibited within 200 feet of riparian areas.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit in cooperation with the Forest Service will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) developed in cooperation with the Forest Service would allow ignitions to burn from BLM lands into Forest Service lands.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan, in association with WAS interim management policy where applicable.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and or restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatment may be implemented on federal land in the wildland urban interface to limit the

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threat of wildland fire events. Community coordination, education, and assistance may be implemented with communities within the FMU.

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PFO-2, Horse / Cottonwood Creek

## 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location - The PFO-2 FMU is located on the north and west sides of the PFO. The northern boundary starts where Chall creek crosses the FS boundary in the northwest corner of the PFO. The boundary follows Chall creek east, joining South Beaver creek and then Beaver creek. At Bronx, the boundary is delineated by County Road 150 crossing State Highway 191/189 continuing on County Road 149. The boundary continues east crossing the Cora road on County Road 120 and turns south at Willow creek continuing south down the New Fork river to State Highway 191 The boundary follows State Highway 191 west to County Road 188. At the junction of County Road 188 and State Highway 191, the boundary heads straight south to the Green River. The Green river south to North Piney creek, is the eastern boundary of the FMU. The southern boundary is North Piney creek from the confluence of the Green river to the FS boundary. The western boundary is the FS boundary. This area total 444,673 acres, and encompasses 223,580 acres of private land, 199,034 acres of BLM administered land, and 22,059 acres of State land.
- b. Characteristics- The dominant vegetation in the FMU is mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush with aspen, lodgepole pine, and willow dominated riparian areas. Use of the FMU includes livestock grazing, big game winter and transitional ranges, Pronghorn Antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and Sage Grouse habitat. Presence of or habitat for the federally listed threatened or endanger species Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Black Footed Ferret, and Bald Eagle has been identified within the FMU. There is lynx analysis units associated with this FMU. BLM and sensitive species within the FMU include, but not limited to, Pygmy Rabbits and Sage Grouse. Other BLM sensitive species are identified on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list (guidance found in BLM manual 6840).
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fire accounts for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fire is possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Suppression fires typically occur between July 1 and September 30. From 1980-2002 there have been 4 fires for .1 acres in the FMU.
- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Fire return interval for aspen is 50-120 years, lodgepole pine 100-300, mountain big sagebrush 15-40, basin big sagebrush 12-43, Wyoming big sagebrush 20-70, and willow dominated riparian areas experiencing infrequent fire. The mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall in to the fire regimes II and III. Aspen and lodgepole pine fall into the fire regimes II and IV. The majority of the FMU

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(60-70%) is considered to be in conditions class 1, and 30 to 40% in condition class 2.

- e. Values at Risk- Potential Stone Circles on Beaver Ridge itself. Cora Butte itself has rock alignments that extend from private surface onto BLM. Stone circles are known for several hilltops in this area. Ryegrass/Soapholes allotment contains the Aspen Ridge Stone Alignment Site, a Traditional Cultural Property and an Eligible, National Register Site. This area should be avoided by fire activity, including the avoidance of Aspen Ridge as a communication site, helispot or fire observation locale. Stone circles are known on several hilltops and ridges in this area. Any dozer work should have cultural resource input. The Wardell Buffalo Trap is located in the southeast corner of this area. The site and its interpretive facilities should be protected. The timbered areas in the western area have the potential to contain historic cabins. Additionally, the Lander Trail is located in this area. Any fire suppression or dozer work in the Lander Trail vicinity should have cultural resource input. North Piney and Bench Corral Elk feed grounds operated by the WGFD are contained in the FMU. The Big Piney/Marbleton Airport is a location where there are flammable materials.
- f. Communities at Risk- The area contains intermingled landownership and some concentrated areas of developed private property. The community of Marbleton is located on U.S. Highway 189.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives-**

The objectives are to improve forage availability in the uplands to draw livestock use away from riparian areas, maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, sustain aspen communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment and stimulate aspen regeneration, promote healthy timber regeneration, protect cultural resources, limit hazardous fuels in and around the wildland urban interface, to protect and manage for wilderness characteristics and values where appropriate, and return to natural fire regime.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 30 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. Within Lynx analysis units manage suppression activities to comply with standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS).
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- The objectives are to restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition classes 2 or 3. Plant communities within the landscape should generally fall into 3

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categories: 15-25% early seral stage, 50-70% mid-seral stage and 15-25% late seral stage.

- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The objectives are to use mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment to reduce fuel loads and create a vegetative mosaic, with an emphasis on restoring or maintaining as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1 in an effort to prevent uncharacteristic wildland fire.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- The objectives are to perform hazardous fuel reduction in an around the wildland urban interface.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- Light on the land suppression tactics will be used whenever property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible and tacitly affective. At no time will bulldozers be used without the written consent of the Pinedale Field Manager. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 200 feet of riparian, wetland areas, and other sensitive resources. Prevent surface disturbing activity and retardant drop on known special status species. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-2 will be suppressed at < 600 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 3-6 will be suppressed at < 1000 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit in cooperation with the Forest Service will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) developed in cooperation with the Forest Service would allow ignitions to burn from BLM lands into Forest Service lands.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire

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shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and or restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.

- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatment may be implemented on federal land in the wildland urban interface to limit the threat of wildland fire events. Community coordination, education, and assistance may be implemented with communities within the FMU.

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## PFO 3, Mesa South Desert

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- The PFO-5 FMU is located in the center of the PFO and extends to the southern boundary of the PFO. The northern boundary is State Highway 191 from County Road 188 east to the New Fork River. The eastern boundary follows the New Fork River south to the confluence of the New Fork and West Fork rivers. The boundary follows the West Fork River upstream to the confluence of Muddy creek. From the confluence of Muddy creek and the West Fork River, the boundary is west of Muddy creek and follows the BLM/Private boundary south to the PFO boundary. The southern boundary follows the PFO boundary west to the Green river. The western boundary is the Green river north to the County Road 188 turn off on State Highway 191. These area total 403,681 acres encompasses 36,775 acres of private land, 348,199 acres of BLM administered land, and 16,806 acres of State land.
- b. Characteristics- The dominant vegetation in the FMU is Wyoming big sagebrush and forest dominated riparian areas. Cottonwood stands along the Green and New Fork rivers to provide wildlife habitat, and recreational and scenic values. Other areas provide habitat for crucial Mule Deer winter range, and Sage Grouse. Use of the FMU includes livestock grazing, big game winter and transitional ranges, Pronghorn Antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and Sage Grouse habitat. Presence of or habitat for the federally listed threatened or endanger species Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Black Footed Ferret, and Bald Eagle has been identified within the FMU. There is lynx analysis units associated with this FMU. BLM sensitive species within the FMU include, but not limited to, Pygmy Rabbits and Sage Grouse. Other BLM sensitive species are identified on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list (guidance found in BLM manual 6840).
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fire accounts for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fire is possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Suppression fires typically occur between July 1 and September 30. From 1980-2002 there have been 16 fires for 67 acres in the FMU.
- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Fire return interval for Wyoming big sagebrush is 10-70 years and > 100 years Cottonwood. Wyoming big sagebrush falls into the fire regimes II and III. The majority of the FMU (60-70%) is considered to be in condition class 1, and 30 to 40% in condition class 2.
- e. Values at Risk- The mesa contains several sensitive locales (Archaeological District 48SU4000, 48SU4100, 48SU2109, and rock alignment site concentrations spanning the northwestern portion of The Mesa (about 8 miles) overlooking the Green River. Special status species, fragile soils, and pale

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ontological sites are in high concentration in the Ross Butte ecosystem area. Additionally, the Lander Trail is located on the extreme southern edge of the Mesa. Any dozer work should have cultural resource input. The Lander trail is located within the Desert management area, and any fire suppression or dozer work in this vicinity should have cultural resource input. One historic cabin is noted for the northern Jonah Field; this cabin does not contain fuels in the cabin area sufficient to carry fire to threaten the site. There are numerous WYG&F FEAR river recreation access sites along the Green river, including the Houston and New Fork river campgrounds and river accesses. There are hundreds of oil and gas facilities in the areas known as the Jonah field and Anticline development. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in the city of Pinedale and surrounding subdivisions and along U.S. Highway 191, and cause visibility problems at the Pinedale Airport. There are also flammable materials stored at the airport.

- f. Communities at Risk- Most of the lands in this area are public with rolling topography and good access for fire management. There are areas of intermingled landownership and some concentrated areas of developed private property.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives are to improve forage availability in the uplands to draw livestock use away from riparian areas, maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment, protect cultural resources, limit hazardous fuels in and around the wildland urban interface, to protect and manage for wilderness characteristics and values where appropriate, and return to natural fire regime.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 30 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. Within Lynx analysis units manage suppression activities to comply with standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS).
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- Restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1 and to prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition classes 2 or 3. Plant communities within the landscape should generally fall into 3 categories: 15-25% early seral stage, 50-70% mid-seral stage and 15-25% late seral stage.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The objectives are to use mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment to reduce fuel loads and create a vegetative

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mosaic, with an emphasis on restoring or maintaining as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1 in an effort to prevent uncharacteristic wildland fire.

- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- The objectives are to perform hazardous fuel reduction in an around the wildland urban interface.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- Light on the land suppression tactics will be used whenever property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible and tacitly affective. At no time will bulldozers be used without the written consent of the Pinedale Field Manager. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 200 feet of riparian, wetland areas, and other sensitive resources. Prevent surface disturbing activity and retardant drop on known special status species. Immediate suppression is required within oil and gas facility areas. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-3 will be suppressed at < 50 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 4-6 will be suppressed at < 500 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit in cooperation with cooperators, such as Forest Service, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This would allow ignitions to burn from BLM lands into Forest Service lands based on a go - no go checklist developed by the Forest Service.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and or restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.

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- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatment may be implemented on federal land in the wildland urban interface to limit the threat of wildland fire events. Community coordination, education, and assistance may be implemented with communities within the FMU.

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## PFO 4, LaBarge

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located on the west side of the PFO. The northern boundary is North Piney creek from the FS boundary to the confluence of the Green river. The eastern boundary is the Green river from the confluence of North Piney creek to the confluence of La Barge creek. La Barge creek is the southern boundary and extends between the confluences of the Green River west to the confluence of Grassy Hallow creek. The western boundary is north from the confluence of Grassy Hallow creek and La Barge creek to the southeast corner of the Lake Mountain WSA and follows the eastern boundary of the WSA and then the eastern boundary of the Rock Creek Area of Critical Concern (ACEC) north to the FS boundary. The remainder of the western boundary is the FS boundary. This area totals 291,996 acres, and encompasses 101,336 acres of private land; 175,244 acres of BLM administered land, and 13,902 acres of State land.
- b. Characteristics- The dominant vegetation in the FMU consists of Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, aspen, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, Douglas fir, limber pine. Use of the FMU includes livestock grazing, big game winter and transitional ranges, Pronghorn Antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and Sage Grouse habitat. Presence of or habitat for the federally listed threatened or endanger species Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Black Footed Ferret, and Bald Eagle has been identified within the FMU. There is lynx analysis units associated with this FMU. BLM sensitive species within the FMU include, but not limited to, Pygmy Rabbits and Sage Grouse. Other BLM sensitive species are identified on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list (guidance found in BLM manual 6840).
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fire accounts for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fire is possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Suppression fires typically occur between July 1 and September 30. From 1980-2002 there have been 26 fires for 468 acres in the FMU.
- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Fire return interval for aspen is 50-120 years, lodgepole pine 100-300, Engelmann spruce >150, subalpine fir 300-350, Douglas fir 25-100, mountain big sagebrush 15-40, basin big sagebrush 12-43, and Wyoming big sagebrush 20-70. The fire return interval for limber pine is defined by the fire return interval of which the plant species is associated. The mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the fire regimes II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir fall into the fire regimes II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and V. The majority of the FMU (50-60%) is considered to be in conditions class 1, 20 to 30% is in condition class 2, and 10 to 20% is in condition class 3.

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- e. Values at Risk- The Lander Trail is located in this area,. Any fire suppression or dozer work in the Lander Trail vicinity should have cultural resource input. In this management area, numerous historic cabins, wooden structures relating to early oil and gas development and other flammable cultural resources are located. Fire suppression efforts should have cultural resource input. Rock Art Sites (Big Chief Panel, Upper Bird Canyon, and Calpet) and human burials are sensitive sites that, if threatened by fire, should have cultural resource input. U.S. Highway 189 is in this area. There are hundreds of oil and gas facilities in the areas known as the LaBarge and Big Piney fields. An Exxon Dehydration plant, H<sub>2</sub>S transmission facilities, and other H<sub>2</sub>S ancillary facilities are a significant hazard in the area. There are communication sites on Hogsback ridge, transmission lines in the area of LaBarge uplift. The Beaver Creek ACEC is crucial habitat for Colorado cutthroat trout.
- f. Communities as Risk- There are areas of intermingled landownership and some concentrated areas of developed private property. The communities of Big Piney, Marbleton, Calpet, LaBarge, and Industrial interface.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives are to improve forage availability in the uplands to draw livestock use away from riparian areas, maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, sustain aspen communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment and stimulate aspen regeneration, promote healthy timber regeneration, protect cultural resources, limit hazardous fuels in and around the wildland urban interface, to protect and manage for wilderness characteristics and values where appropriate, and return to natural fire regime.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 30 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. Within Lynx analysis units manage suppression activities to comply with standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS).
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- The objectives are to restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1. Prevent plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition classes 2 or 3. Plant communities within the landscape should generally fall into 3 categories: 15-25% early seral stage, 50-70% mid-seral stage and 15-25% late seral stage.
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The objectives are to use mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment to reduce fuel loads and create a vegetative mosaic, with an emphasis on restoring or maintaining as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1 in an effort to prevent uncharacteristic wildland fire.

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- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- The objectives are to perform hazardous fuel reduction in an around the wildland urban interface.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- Light on the land suppression tactics will be used whenever property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible and tacitly affective. At no time will bulldozers be used without the written consent of the Pinedale Field Manager. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 200 feet of riparian, wetland areas, and other sensitive resources. Prevent surface disturbing activity and retardant drop on known special status species. Immediate suppression is required within oil and gas facility areas and around exposed coal seams. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-2 will be suppressed at < 500 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 3-6 will be suppressed at < 1500 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit in cooperation with cooperators, such as Forest Service, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This would allow ignitions to burn from BLM lands into Forest Service lands based on a go - no go checklist developed by the Forest Service.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Fuels treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and or restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatment may be implemented on federal land in the wildland urban interface to limit the threat of wildland fire events. Community coordination, education, and assistance may be implemented with communities within the FMU.

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## PFO 5, Miller Mountain

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- This FMU is located on the southwest corner of the PFO. La Barge creek is the northern boundary between the confluences of the Green River west to the confluence of Grassy Hollow creek. The northern boundary is north from the confluence of Grassy Hollow creek and La Barge creek to the southeast corner of the Lake Mountain WSA and follows the eastern boundary of the WSA north and then the eastern boundary of the Rock Creek Area of Critical Concern (ACEC) to the FS boundary. The northern and western boundaries are shared with the Forest Service. The Eastern boundary is the Green river from the confluence of La Barge creek south to the confluence of Fontenelle creek and Fontenelle reservoir. Fontenelle creek makes up the southern boundary between the FS boundary and Fontenelle Reservoir on the Green river. These areas total 157,465 acres encompasses 9,608 acres of private land, 120,270 acres of BLM administered land (13,577 within the Lake Mountain WSA), 9,608 acres of State land, and 1,496 of Bureau of Reclamation administered lands.
- b. Characteristics- The dominant vegetation in the FMU consists of Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, aspen, lodgepole pine, and limber pine. Use of the FMU includes livestock grazing, big game winter and transitional ranges, Pronghorn Antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and Sage Grouse habitat. Presence of or habitat for the federally listed threatened or endanger species Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Black Footed Ferret, and Bald Eagle has been identified within the FMU. There is lynx analysis units associated with this FMU. BLM sensitive species within the FMU include, but not limited to, Pygmy Rabbits and Sage Grouse. Other BLM sensitive species are identified on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list (guidance found in BLM manual 6840).
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fire accounts for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fire is possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and industrial operations. Suppression fires typically occur between July 1 and September 30. From 1980-2002 there have been 13 fires for 1843 acres in the FMU.
- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Fire return interval for aspen is 2-120 years, lodgepole pine 25-300, Engelmann spruce >150, subalpine fir 300-350, Douglas fir 25-100, mountain big sagebrush 15-40, basin big sagebrush 12-43,

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and Wyoming big sagebrush 20-70. The fire return interval for limber pine is defined by the fire return interval of which the plant species is associated. The mountain big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming big sagebrush fall into the fire regimes II and III. Aspen, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir fall into the fire regimes II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and V. The majority of the FMU (50-60%) is considered to be in conditions class 1, 20 to 30% is in condition class 2, and 10 to 20% is in condition class 3.

- e. Values at Risk- In this management area, numerous historic cabins, wooden structures relating to early oil and gas development and other flammable cultural resources are located. Fire suppression efforts should have cultural resource input. Rock Art Sites (The Mahogany Site,), and human burials are sensitive sites that, if threatened by fire, should have cultural resource input. Holden Hill is a nationally significant Sublette Cutoff/Oregon Trail site that could easily be adversely affected by fire or fire suppression efforts. Any fire suppression near Holden Hill should be preceded by cultural resource input. The Rock Creek ACEC is crucial habitat for Colorado cutthroat trout and elk parturition area. The Lake Mountain WSA is located within the FMU and is an area of high recreational use. U.S. Highway 189 is also in this area.
- f. Communities at Risk- There are areas of intermingled landownership and some concentrated areas of developed private property.

## **2. Fire Management Objectives**

The objectives are to improve forage availability in the uplands to draw livestock use away from riparian areas, maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, sustain aspen communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment and stimulate aspen regeneration, promote healthy timber regeneration, protect cultural resources, limit hazardous fuels in and around the wildland urban interface, to protect and manage for wilderness characteristics and values where appropriate, and return to natural fire regime.

- a. Suppression Objectives- No more than 30 percent of this FMU would be burned or treated in the next 20 years. Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land, and maximizing the ecological benefit of wildland fire. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. Within Lynx analysis units manage suppression activities to comply with standards identified in the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy (LCAS). To maintain wilderness values and visual integrity of the WSA.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- The objectives are to restore or maintain as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1. Prevent

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plant communities and fuel conditions from moving into fire condition classes 2 or 3. Plant communities within the landscape should generally fall into 3 categories: 15-25% early seral stage, 50-70% mid-seral stage and 15-25% late seral stage.

- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- The objectives are to use mechanical, chemical, and biological treatment to reduce fuel loads and create a vegetative mosaic, with an emphasis on restoring or maintaining as much of the landscape as possible in fire condition class 1 in an effort to prevent uncharacteristic wildland fire.
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- The objectives are to perform hazardous fuel reduction in an around the wildland urban interface.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- On all BLM lands within the FMU light on the land suppression tactics will be used whenever property or firefighter safety is not threatened. Roads and natural fuel breaks should be used in association with indirect tactics to stop the fire in place of new fire line construction whenever possible and tacitly affective. At no time will bulldozers be used without the written consent of the Pinedale Field Manager. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 200 feet of riparian, wetland areas, and other sensitive resources. Prevent surface disturbing activity and retardant drop on known special status species. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-2 will be suppressed at < 500 acres 90 percent of the time. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 3-6 will be suppressed at < 2000 acres 90 percent of the time.
  - Within the WSA specific guidelines for suppression are referred to in the Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics Implementation Guidelines and the manual H-8550-1 Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review. The guidelines strategies are, to provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing impacts to the WSA values. Minimize suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on resources at risk. All suppression actions within the WSA will adhere to Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics and Implementation Guidelines. Additional WSA guidelines for suppression include, but are not limited to, use of dozers or other heavy equipment are prohibited (unless authorized in writing by the

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PFO Field Manager), only chain saws and non-mechanical hand tools may be used. Surface disturbing activities including temporary fire camps and other sites used for fire suppression activities must be located out of the WSA. Travel is limited to existing roads and trails. Landing aircraft of any type should be avoided, except in life threatening situations. Helipads may be used upon receiving written permission of the PFO Field Manager, but must be limited to the minimum necessary for suppression. Minimize cutting of live and burned trees and snags. In the event that a tree poses a safety hazard and needs to be cut, trees should be cut flush to the ground and naturalized, and limbs should be scattered. Refrain from making piles. Scatter limbs and burned material in a natural looking manner. Retardant and foam is prohibited within 200 feet of riparian areas.

- b. Wildland Fire Use- Wildland fire use for resource benefit in cooperation with cooperators, such as Forest Service, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This would allow ignitions to burn from BLM lands into Forest Service lands based on a go - no go checklist developed by the Forest Service.
- c. Prescribed Fire- Treatments may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- Non-fire fuels treatment may be considered as needed by a site-specific plan.
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and or restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatment may be implemented on federal land in the wildland urban interface to limit the threat of wildland fire events. Community coordination, education, and assistance may be implemented with communities within the FMU.

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## PFO 6, Snake River

### 1. Description of FMU-

- a. Location- Located within T 40, 41, & 42N / R116 & 117W along the Snake River. Ownership of the parcels will be transferred from the BLM.
- b. Characteristics- Cottonwood riparian area with willow and shrub under story with limited mixed conifer. Presence of or habitat for the federally listed threatened or endanger species Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, and Bald Eagle has been identified within the FMU. There is lynx analysis units associated with this FMU. Other BLM sensitive species are identified on the BLM Wyoming State Director's sensitive species list (BLM manual 6840).
- c. Fire History- Lightning caused fire accounts for the majority of ignitions. Human caused fire is possible with ignitions coming from recreational users and adjacent private property. Suppression fires typically occur between July 1 and September 30.
- d. Fire Regime/Condition Class- Fire return interval willow dominated riparian areas experiencing infrequent fire. The fire return interval for cottonwood is defined by the fire return interval of the associated plant species. The fire return intervals for associated mix conifers potentially include lodgepole pine 25-300, Engelmann spruce >150, subalpine fir 300-350, and Douglas fir 25-100. The lodgepole pine and Douglas fir fall into the fire regimes II and IV. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir fall into fire regimes IV and V. The majority of the FMU (75-100%) is considered to be in conditions class 2.
- e. Values at Risk- Flammable cultural resources include the original approach to the Snake River/South Park Bridge and known and suspected ranching facilities. There are high recreation use areas along the Snake River levees, adjacent National Park Service lands, Jackson Hole gun club, and Wilson and South Park boat launching areas. The City of Jackson trash transfer facility and commercial transmission lines are on BLM land. US Highway 189/191 and State Highway 22 run through the area.
- f. Communities as Risk- There are areas of intermingled landownership and concentrated areas of developed private property of multi-million dollar houses.

### 2. Fire Management Objectives

Protect life, property, and resource values from wildfire.

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- a. Suppression Objectives- Provide for human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, threats to private land.
- b. Fire Use and Prescribed Fire Objectives- N/A
- c. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments Objectives- N/A
- d. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site-by-site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.
- e. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- The objectives are to hazardous fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface.

### **3. Fire Management Strategies-**

- a. Suppression- Full suppression tactics will be used. All fires occurring at Fire Intensity Levels (FILs) 1-6 will be suppressed at < 1 acres 90 percent of the time.
- b. Wildland Fire Use- N/A
- c. Prescribed Fire- N/A
- d. Non-Fire Fuels Treatments- N/A
- e. Post Fire Rehabilitation and/or Restoration Objectives- The need for implementing rehabilitation and/or restoration projects following wildland fire shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The emphasis will be to reestablish healthy native plant communities and restore watershed function, and protect resources at risk.
- f. Community Protection/Community Assistance Objectives- Fuels treatments may be implemented in the wildland urban interface to limit the threat of wildland fire events.

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## Chapter 4 - Fire Management Components

### A. Wildland Fire Suppression

#### Fire Planning Unit, (FPU), History Analysis

Fire occurrence in the Fire Planning Unit has historically been 30 to 50 fires per year, with the majority of the fires Class A and B (Reference Glossary/Acromyms). Over 95% of these fires are caused by lightning. Over the last 4 years fire occurrence and size has increased drastically due to drought. The FPU now receives between 110-140 fires a season on BLM lands and approximately 30 to 40 fires on private land, although the majorities are still Class A and B. Across the zone, fire season typically begins in late June and ends in late September. With the onset of the drought, the fire season now begins in May and continues through late October. Wind is the primary factor in determining fire size and intensity.

Kemmerer Field Office - Between 1980 and 2003, 128 wildland fires occurred within the KFO area for a total of 34,432 acres burned. Wildland fire occurrences within this time frame have accounted for an average of 1,497 acres burned per year. About 95% of these wildland fires are lightning caused, while only 5% are accounted for (human caused wildland fires.). While the majority of wildland fires within the KFO can be categorized as Class C Fires, (10-99 acres), periodic stand replacement events have occurred within the Class F Fire rating (1000-4999 acres) at the higher Fire Intensity Levels in the 5 and 6 range.

Rock Springs Field Office - While the majority of wildland fires within the RSFO can be categorized as Class A and B fires (.01 to 9 acres), periodic stand replacement events have occurred within the Class G fire rating, (5,000+ acres) at the higher Fire Intensity Levels in the 4 and 5 range. The area averages 39 fires per year burning approximately 4,648 acres per year. This office has the highest fire occurrence and most project fires in the Planning Unit.

Pinedale Field Office - While the majority of wildland fires within this PFO can be categorized as Class A and B Fires (.01 to 9 acres), periodic stand replacement events have occurred within the Class F Fire rating (1,000-4,999 acres) at the higher Fire Intensity Levels in the 5 and 6 range. This area averages 5 fires per year, burning an average of 501 acres.

#### Suppression/Preparedness Action

There are currently no approved Wildland Fire Use Plans in place. Currently appropriate management response (AMR) is used to manage all fires in accordance with management objectives based on current conditions, fire location, pre-suppression planning efforts, current Zone fire danger rating, and National Preparedness Levels.

AMR strategies and tactics shall be tailored to address management considerations such as urban and industrial interface, Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Special Resource Management Areas, Critical Wildlife habitat areas, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species, special status plants, significant cultural resource sites, and areas of other critical resource constraints.

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Requirements for fire operations/suppression plans can be found in the annual “Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations” (Red Book) and the Office of Fire and Aviation website at <http://www.fire.blm.gov/>. Zone specific plans for fire and resource personnel can be accessed from the Southern Wyoming Interagency Dispatch Center. (See Chapter 5 of this document for a complete summary of the preparedness organization including staffing, budget, equipment, etc.).

## **Fire Prevention, Community Education, Community Risk Assessment, and Other Community Assistance Activities (Firewise)**

Community Risk Assessments and Mitigation Plans are being developed for communities on the Federal Register. To date there are approximately 6 communities either in the process or have completed these plans.

There has not been a Fire Prevention Program established within the Wyoming BLM Southwestern Zone. Industrial operations, Precautions and Orders and Closures are covered in the Wyoming Interagency Fire Restriction Plan. All orders and closures are done in coordination with local cooperators and adjoining agencies. They are recommended by the Zone Fire Management Officer, and approved by the Field Manager. This information can be obtained from the respective BLM Field Office, the Southern Wyoming Interagency Dispatch Center, and from the Southern Wyoming Interagency Dispatch Center’s website; <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/fire/rwc/rwc.htm>.

## **Annual Fire Training Activities**

**Qualifications and Fireline Refresher** - Training and fitness requirements for all personnel involved in fire suppression/support can be found in the annual “Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations” (Red Book) and the Office of Fire and Aviation website at <http://www.fire.blm.gov/>. Attendance at the annual fireline refresher training along with successful completion of the work capacity test, at the appropriate level, is a prerequisite for issuance of an Incident Command Qualification System certificate (Red Card) prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Fire Season Readiness** - Requirements for preparedness and operational plans can be found in the Southwestern Zone Initial Attack Plan, Southwestern Zone Aviation Plan, and the “Interagency Standard for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations” (Red Book) at <http://www.fire.blm.gov/>. These plans can also be obtained from the Rawlins Interagency Dispatch Center. The Southwestern Zone Fire Operations Program participates in an annual Fire Readiness Review and is sanctioned either at the National or State Office level. This review ensures appropriate agency fire suppression readiness throughout the Zone and also validates the management direction and operational focus of the Zone’s Fire Program. Operations typically begin in March or April with prescribed burning and last until late October. Zone personnel training needs include qualifications for Engine Module Leaders, ICT4, ICT3, Strike Team/Task Force Leaders, Ignition Specialist, Burn Boss, and various aviation positions.

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**Detection** - There is no automatic aerial detection program within the Wyoming BLM Southwestern Zone. Fire Management may request aerial detection services on an as-needed basis from the Rawlins Interagency Dispatch Center.

## **Fire Weather and Fire Danger**

The Wyoming BLM Southwestern Zone maintains three Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) and has access to two other RAWS stations owned and operated by the USDA Forest Service.

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>NWS ID</b>	<b>NESS ID</b>	<b>Elevation</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
BLM	Muddy Cr.	481801	327861F6	6970'	41:24:00	110:33:10
USFS	Loaner	N/A	3282572A	8400'	42:15:34	110:48:30
USFS	BT Micro 1	N/A	3271A2B4	8232'	42:21:03	110:34:00
BLM	Snow Springs	481904	32789172	7,550	41:25:03	109:02:10
BLM	Anderson Ridge	481903	32787280	8,120	42:26:14	108:56:27
BLM	Portable					

Zone Wide Information - Rawlins Dispatch Center staff is responsible for recurrent daily activities to manage RAWS data and for the input of key dates to initiate seasonal data collection and termination. NFDRS fuels models T is used along with the energy release component to develop fire danger ratings.

A Handar 555 Portable RAWS station is available in the Zone, located in the Rock Springs Office (ID Numbers 5699, and TR377

## **Aviation Management**

General aviation information, safety, aerial ignition plans, and policy are covered in the Southwestern Zone Aviation Plan. The Zone Fuels Specialist is also the Zone Aviation Manager.

The BLM Southern Wyoming Helitack and the BIA Fort Washakie Helitack modules may be available for Initial Attack (IA) through Rawlins Interagency Dispatch Center. Call When Needed (CWN) aircraft are available to provide point-to-point transportation, bucket operations, aerial ignition platforms, and reconnaissance missions to support resource management activities. The Dutch John, Ashley NF, and Jackson helicopters, Bridger-Teton NF, may also be available for IA. These helicopters are based in USFS Region 2. Air tankers may be available in Pocatello, Idaho, Grand Junction, Colorado, Salt Lake City, Utah, and a reload base in Greybull, Wyoming.

## **Initial Attack**

All fires within the zone will be managed with suppression actions consistent with preplanned dispatch protocols laid out in the Zone Initial Attack Plan. This plan can be obtained through Rawlins Interagency Dispatch. Fires within the zone will be managed with AMR or fire use for resource benefits that conform with resource management objectives identified within this

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plan. Tactics and strategies will be based on human health and safety first, while minimizing loss of property, and threats to private lands, minimizing suppression impacts by identifying opportunities to use roads, riparian areas, and natural barriers for control lines depending on the resource risk.

Hazards in the Zone include exposed coal seams, power lines, oil and gas facilities, abandoned mines, and H<sub>2</sub>S gas. .

The highest priority FMUs within the Zone for initial attack are ranked as follows:

- a. Kemmerer Field Office
  - 1) Star Valley
  - 2) South Bridger
  - 3) Moxa
  
- b. Rock Springs Field Office
  - 1) Little Mountain
  - 2) Big Sandy/Steamboat Mountain
  - 3) Sweetwater
  
- c. Pinedale Field Office
  - 1) Wind River Front
  - 2) Mesa/South Desert
  - 3) LaBarge
  
- d. Zone Prioritization
  - 1) Wind River Front, (Hoback Ranches)
  - 2) Star Valley
  - 3) South Bridger
  - 4) Mesa/South Desert
  - 5) Moxa
  - 6) La Barge
  - 7) Little Mountain
  - 8) Big Sandy/Steamboat Mountain
  - 9) Sweetwater

Zone prioritization of FMU's was based on #1, Urban Interface, #2, Industrial Interface and #3 Resource Protection.

Other Fire Suppression Considerations - Other fire suppression considerations include the known locations and vegetation communities inhabited by threatened and endangered species, crucial winter range habitat, sage grouse leks, birthing grounds, sour gas oil well installations, power lines, cultural sites and areas of high public concentration during summer and fall months.

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## B. Wildland Fire Use

**Description of the Wildland Fire Use Opportunities** - There are 19 Fire Management Units within the Planning Unit. Each unit has specific objectives based on vegetation and resources at risk. Each unit identifies appropriate opportunities for wildland fire use if objectives can be met.

**Initial Action Procedures** - To implement Wildland Fire Use, parameters within the Wildfire Implementation Plan must be met. To implement wildland fire use, Field Manager approval is required.

**Required Personnel** - Reference the Wildland Fire Use Guide for Wyoming BLM.

**Public Information** - The public may be notified of fire management actions by radio, posters and news paper articles. The Zone Public Affairs Officer (PAO) is responsible for distribution of this information.

## C. Prescribed Fire

### **Planning and Documentation**

Projects will be identified at the field office level. All appropriate planning and documentation will be completed before prescribed fire is used as a management tool. This may include Land Owner permits, signature by the State Land Commission, DEQ Smoke permits. The zone holds spring and fall coordination meetings to discuss and prioritize burns.

Prescribed burns will only be implemented if all parameters in the burn plan are met and resource objectives can be met. If certain areas within an FMU have planning and documentation in place for a prescribed burn, and a unplanned ignition takes place within that area, the fire may be managed as a prescribed burn if all parameters within the burn plan and prescription can be met.

Primary burn windows are March to May, and again September through November, however, opportunities may exist year around. Personnel needs include burn bosses, ignition specialists, engines, helitack, aerial ignition modules, helicopters, hand crews, resource advisors and prescribed fire managers.

### **Air Quality and Smoke Management**

Smoke issues will be addressed in accordance with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for all prescribed burns.

Mitigation measures - Class 1 Air Sheds include Yellowstone National Park and the Bridger Wilderness on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The location of all Class I air sheds, non-attainment areas, clean air corridors, as well as critical receptors are all identified in the planning process, and all DEQ air quality standards are met for each prescribed burn project.

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Fire Planning Unit fuels treatment map - Each prescribed burn that is implemented or planned is mapped in GIS and copied to planning documents.

## Acres Treated

Kemmerer Field Office - Since 1992 approximately 42,000 acres of public land have been treated with prescribed fire.

Total Acres treated in CC 2 moved to CC 1	Total Acres treated in CC 3 and moved to CC 2 or CC1	Total Acres Treated
30,000	12,000	42,000

Rock Springs Field Office - Since 1992 approximately 33,000 acres of public land have been treated with prescribed fire.

Total Acres treated in CC 2 moved to CC 1	Total Acres treated in CC 3 and moved to CC 2 or CC1	Total Acres Treated
27,000	6,000	33,000

Pinedale Field Office - Since 1992 approximately 8,600 acres of public land have been treated with prescribed fire.

Total Acres treated in CC 2 moved to CC 1	Total Acres treated in CC 3 and moved to CC 2 or CC1	Total Acres Treated
1,600	7,000	8,600

## Monitoring

Short-term and long-term overall program effectiveness monitoring objectives - The Kemmerer Field Office has an extensive prescribed burn monitoring program that assess the short and long term effectiveness of these treatments as well as if objectives of the project have been met. This monitoring program involves photo points, line intercept transects, and belt transects to determine shrub species composition, plant species diversity, age class structure, recruitment, and site descriptions. At a minimum the zone requires pre and post burn photo points.

## **D. Non-Fire Fuel Treatments**

### **1. Kemmerer Field Office**

- a. Number of acres treated by non-fire methods - Since 1992 approximately 12,000 acres have been treated either mechanically or chemically within the Kemmerer Field Office Area.

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- b. Number of acres treated mechanically with by-products utilized - Since 1992 approximately 1,000 acres have been treated mechanically with by-products utilized with the Kemmerer Field Office Area.
- c. Number of projects implemented through local contractors - Approximately 9 chemical and mechanical projects have been implemented through local contractors.
- d. Acres Treated - Since 1992 approximately 13,000 acres have been chemically or mechanically treated in the Kemmerer Field Office Area.

Total Acres treated in CC 2 moved to CC 1.	Total Acres treated in CC 3 and moved to CC 2 or CC1	Total Acres Treated
9,000	4,000	13,000

## 2. Rock Springs Field Office-

- a. Number of acres treated by non-fire methods - 0 acres.
- b. Number of acres treated mechanically with by-products utilized - 0 acres.
- c. Number of projects implemented through local contractors - 0 acres.
- d. Acres Treated-

Total Acres treated in CC 2 moved to CC 1	Total Acres treated in CC 3 and moved to CC 2 or CC1	Total Acres Treated
0	0	0

## 3. Pinedale Field Office-

- a. Number of acres treated by non-fire methods -
- b. Number of acres treated mechanically with by-products utilized -
- c. Number of projects implemented through local contractors -
- d. Acres Treated -

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Total Acres treated in CC 2 moved to CC 1	Total Acres treated in CC 3 and moved to CC 2 or CC1	Total Acres Treated
12,000	5,000	17,000

## **E. Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation**

Emergency stabilization and/or rehabilitation actions will promote the reestablishment of healthy native plant communities and will be evaluated on a site by site basis following wildland fires. All treatments will follow the guidelines established in the DOI Interagency Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook.

## **F. Community Protection/Community Assistance**

There are currently 7 communities at risk WUI with completed and current fire management plans or risk assessments.

Only one WUI community has a fire prevention program in place and implemented. Other communities are working to implement these plans at this time.

The Fire Management Plan identifies and addresses all 19 Federal Register Communities at Risk, as well as all other communities located within each fire management unit. Risk assessments have been completed for Cokeville.

There are different levels of fire prevention programs being implemented in all 19 communities at risk with plans of improving these programs in the future.

Three of the WUI communities at risk have initiated volunteer and community funded efforts to reduce hazardous fuels resulting in the removal of the community from the at-risk list-

The Zone has supported all five counties for Assistance Grants. The majority of the county workload is in Sweetwater County, in the southern portion of the zone. The counties have purchased PPE, training supplies, pagers, radios, tanks, pumps, foam units and various tools, hose and fittings with these grants.

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## Chapter 5 – Organization and Budget

### A. Budget and Organization

The Southwestern Zone Fire Management Program, based at the Rock Springs Field Office, is broken into two operational programs, Fuels Management and Fire Operations. A Zone Fire Management Officer, (permanent full-time), oversees these operational programs and is the administrative authority over the Zone Fire/Fuels Management Program.

The Fuels Management Program is directed by the Zone Fuels Specialist, (permanent full-time), and consists of a Natural Resource Specialist/WUI position, (2 permanent full-time and one 6 months), based at each Field Office.

The Fire Operations Program consists of a Fire Operations Supervisor, (career-seasonal 9-11 ½ months), four Engine Module Supervisors, (career-seasonal 6-11 ½ months), four Assistant Engine Module Leaders, (career-seasonal 6-9 months), and twelve temporary-seasonal fire crewmembers, (NTE 1039 hours).

Suppression personnel and the Zone Fuels Specialist are located in the Rock Springs Field Office. Although the zone consists of 3 Field Offices, over 90% of the fires occur in the Rock Springs Office and the majority of those in the southern portion of the office along Flaming Gorge.

The program currently operates four Type 6 Engines at MEL, (Most Efficient Level), and is defined as a crew consisting of one Engine Module Supervisor, (EMS), one Assistant Engine Module Leader, (AEML), and three firefighters per engine. As a result, initial attack resources, (engines), within the Zone could be staffed in two configurations.

- a. Four engines staffed seven days a week with a minimum three personnel within a rotating day off schedule. This option is commensurate with light initial attack and minimal incident command complexities. Qualifications of crewmembers in this configuration are a minimum of one Engine Operator, (ENOP)/Incident Commander Type 5, (ICT5) and two basic firefighter, (FFT2) qualified personnel. This staffing is currently employed and meets MEL.
- b. Four engines staffed five days a week with five personnel under a fixed work schedule with rotating engine days off to facilitate 3 engines fully staffed per day. This option is commensurate with heavy initial attack and higher incident command complexities.  
**(does not meet MEL)**

The Zone supports four light (Type 6) engines, however due to limited water sources and fill sites, a heavy engine; (Type 4) 4x4, 1000 gallon engine would better meet the suppression needs of the organization. This Zone often uses these types of engines when resources are ordered for I.A. and severity. The additional 700 gallons of water often make the difference between additional time required on fires (engines traveling an average of 45 minutes to 1hour each way to refill, or crews dry mopping fires).

Throughout the 14 million total surface acres within the Zone that are under the Fire Operation's Initial Attack jurisdiction, natural and man-made water fill sites are scarce and

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limited by access. The historical dependence and use of the Rural Fire Departments to provide water tenders and water shuttling operations is now further complicated by local budget cuts and personnel availability. To ensure that water handling operations are established and maintained it is essential for the Zone to have in its inventory water tenders with a capacity between 3000- 5000 gallons. These operations include but are not limited to, long-range continuous water shuttling operations, support for high-sided helicopter dip tanks, SEAT/helicopter retardant batch mix site support, dust abatement for large fire support, direct water filling support for engine operations within remote locations, support to prescribed burns, and support to neighboring zones, agencies, and cooperators.

Due to the ever-increasing and expanding oil and gas industry within the local economy, it has become difficult for our employees to compete within the housing market in the Rock Springs/Green River area. As a result housing costs for mid-level career-seasonal and temporary summer-seasonal employees are well beyond feasibility. The Zone maintains temporary government provided housing, (16-occupant bunkhouse), for these seasonal employees to occupy at minimal costs throughout their term of employment. Although the Southwestern Zone has greatly benefited from this housing program, the facility needs remodeling with additional space or a new bunkhouse needs to be built.

Prescribed burning is usually conducted in the spring and fall usually running from, but not limited to, March-April and resuming from September-November. Opportunities exist for burning outside these historical windows. Wildland Fire season usually runs from May-November with a few but limited occurrences in the “off-season” months. In order to support fire and prescribed fire operations the Zone maintains a fire cache located in Rock Springs as well as a cooperative cache with the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Kemmerer Ranger District, in Kemmerer, Wyoming. This cooperative cache is intended to support local resources on large fires.

The Zone Fire Cache, located in Rock Springs is managed by one of the Module Leaders or Assistants. This responsibility is performed in conjunction with their normal duties. This Cache supports 4 Type 6 Engines, 23 Fire Operations personnel, and over 85 Zone Field Office Employees. In addition the Zone Fire Cache is intended to support one 20-person and one 10 person I.A Handcrew as well as Type 3 Incidents for a minimum of 5 days. The increased use of the Zone Fire Cache throughout the year in support of a minimum allocation of additional work months for Engine Module Supervisors to maintain Cache operations.

The program oversees and coordinates all aspects of fire and fuels related training in the zone. This includes experience records, OJT, course nominations, Individual Development Plans, updating the SACS/IQCS database, and other related documentation for over 85 people. This is managed by a designated an Engine Module Leader who performs as the Zone Fire Training Specialist in addition to normal responsibilities. We feel that this position needs to be recognized and identified within the budget as a stand alone position or assigned to a Module Leader who should be Permanent Full time rather than Career Seasonal. This position would also be able to coordinate training activities and opportunities within the State of Wyoming for the BLM and other agencies and Cooperators to increase effectiveness, availability to target audiences, reduce parallel efforts and ensure a more cost effective training focused operations.

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With the high number of incidents in the zone, over 130/year in the last 3-4 years and the continuing drought it is logical to assume that the number of fires will remain the same or increase. Administrative personnel are not adequate. With the increase in fires comes an increase in fire replacement and purchasing. Additional paperwork is generated, documentation, fire reports, time and attendance etc. This puts an extra burden on Module Leaders. As they respond to more fires, procedure and documentation increases, yet they must still meet 2-1 hour's regulations. At times it is impossible to meet all requirements in a timely manner. A combination fire procurement/file clerk could relieve a great deal of this burden from the Module Leaders allowing them to concentrate on their priorities of safety, training and suppression. This individual could also set up pre season agreements, assist overhead teams on Type I-III incidents, aid in processing payment documentation, track and file fire documentation, and act as a time keeper on smaller incidents.

The current 2004 budget has reduced availability of personnel for early and late season fires, i.e., May-June and Oct-Nov. It has reduced training opportunities and lessened availability of single qualified resources to respond to Regional and National incidents, due to the loss of command/chase vehicles, as no other vehicles are available in the office. With the reduction in dollars, work months are reduced; career seasonal and summer seasonal employees are looking to other agencies and states for a more stable and longer term job. In order to be competitive with other Federal Agencies, we also feel that the Fire Operations Supervisor position description should be converted to permanent full-time classification and be at the full performance level of GS-0455-09 as has been accomplished in neighboring states and also be commensurate with the Department of Agriculture US Forest Service Assistant Fire Management Officer position description. Operations dollars are also cut, limiting the purchase of new or replacement of old equipment.

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<b>Resource</b>	<b>Current Staffing</b>	<b>Desired Staffing</b>	<b>Normal Activation</b>	<b>Desired Activation</b>	<b>Sub Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Zone FMO	1	1	Yearly	Yearly	2810	\$50,000.00
Zone Fuels Specialist	1	1	Yearly	Yearly	2823	\$60,000.00
Zone FOS	1 CS	1 PFT	11 months	Yearly	2810	\$40,000.00
Type 6 Engine (4)	20	20	May-Oct	May-Oct	2810	\$120,000
FMO/FOS vehicles	2	2	yearly	yearly	2810	\$35,000
Zone Fuels Specialist vehicle	1	1	yearly	yearly	2823	\$6000
Engine Crew Career Seasonal Engine Module Leaders	4	4	March/April-Oct/Nov	8-11 months	2810	\$140,000
Engine Crew Career Seasonal Assistant Module Leaders	3	4	April- Oct	7-9	2810	\$120,000
Engine Crew Seasonal	14	12	June-Sept	June-Sept	2810	\$110,400
Natural Resource Specialist/ WUI	3	3 yearly	yearly	yearly	2824	\$163,000.00
Cache Manager/Tender Operator	0	1	Yearly	Yearly	2810	\$35,000
Training Specialist	0	1	Yearly	Yearly	2810	\$35,000
Fire Purchasing Agent/Fire Clerk	0	1	Yearly	Yearly	2810	\$40,000
Water Tender 3500-5000	0	1	March-Nov	March-Nov	2810	\$250,000
Command Chase vehicles, EML	0	4	June-Nov	June-Nov	2810	\$10,000
Type IV Engine	0	2	yearly	yearly	2810	\$160,000

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## **B. Assistance Agreements and Intra/Interagency Agreements**

The Wyoming BLM Southwestern Zone Fire Program currently operates under five Annual Operating Plans, (AOPs). They are:

- 1.Lincoln County
- 2.Sublette County
- 3.Sweetwater County
- 4.Teton County
- 5.Uinta County

These AOPs allow the Southwestern Zone Fire Program and the surrounding Fire Rural Fire Programs, Ashley, Wasatch, and Bridger-Teton National Forests, Fossil Butte National Monument, Seedskaadee and Cokeville National Wildlife Refuges, and Wyoming State Forestry Department the ability to work cooperatively on wildland fire incidents and prescribed fire projects, establishes a cost-sharing agreement as well as identifies management and operational policies.

## **C. Equipment Rental Agreements**

Equipment rental agreements have been established with in the Zone and are renewed yearly. Agreements with local hotels, restaurants, hardware and grocery stores are also established. A list of these EERA is available at the Rock Springs Office, Rawlins Interagency Dispatch and in the State Office in Cheyenne.

## **D. Contract Suppression and Prescribed Fire Resources**

Currently there are no suppression or prescribed fire resource contracts established within the Wyoming BLM Southwestern Zone. County Operating Agreements allow for use of county personnel and equipment on burns and fires. Administrative Detailed, (AD), positions have also been used to assist on prescribed and wildland fire projects in the zone as well as the use of local and national resources.

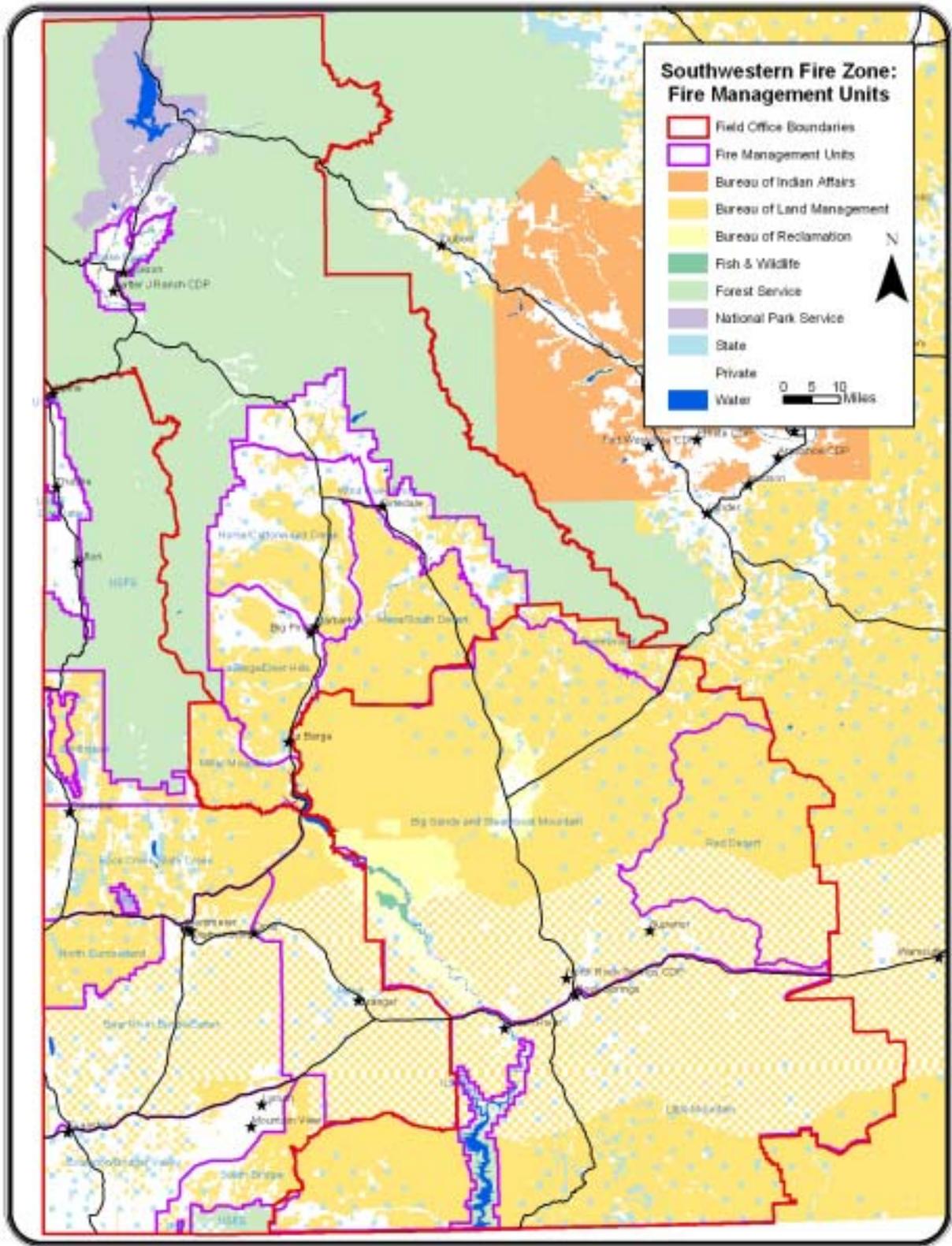
## **E. Monitoring**

Short-term and long-term overall program effectiveness monitoring objectives- The Kemmerer Field Office has an extensive prescribed burn monitoring program that assess the short and long term effectiveness of these treatments as well as if objectives of the project have been met. This monitoring program involves photo points, line intercept transects, and belt transects to determine shrub species composition, plant species diversity, age class structure, recruitment, and site descriptions. At a minimum the zone requires pre and post burn photo points.

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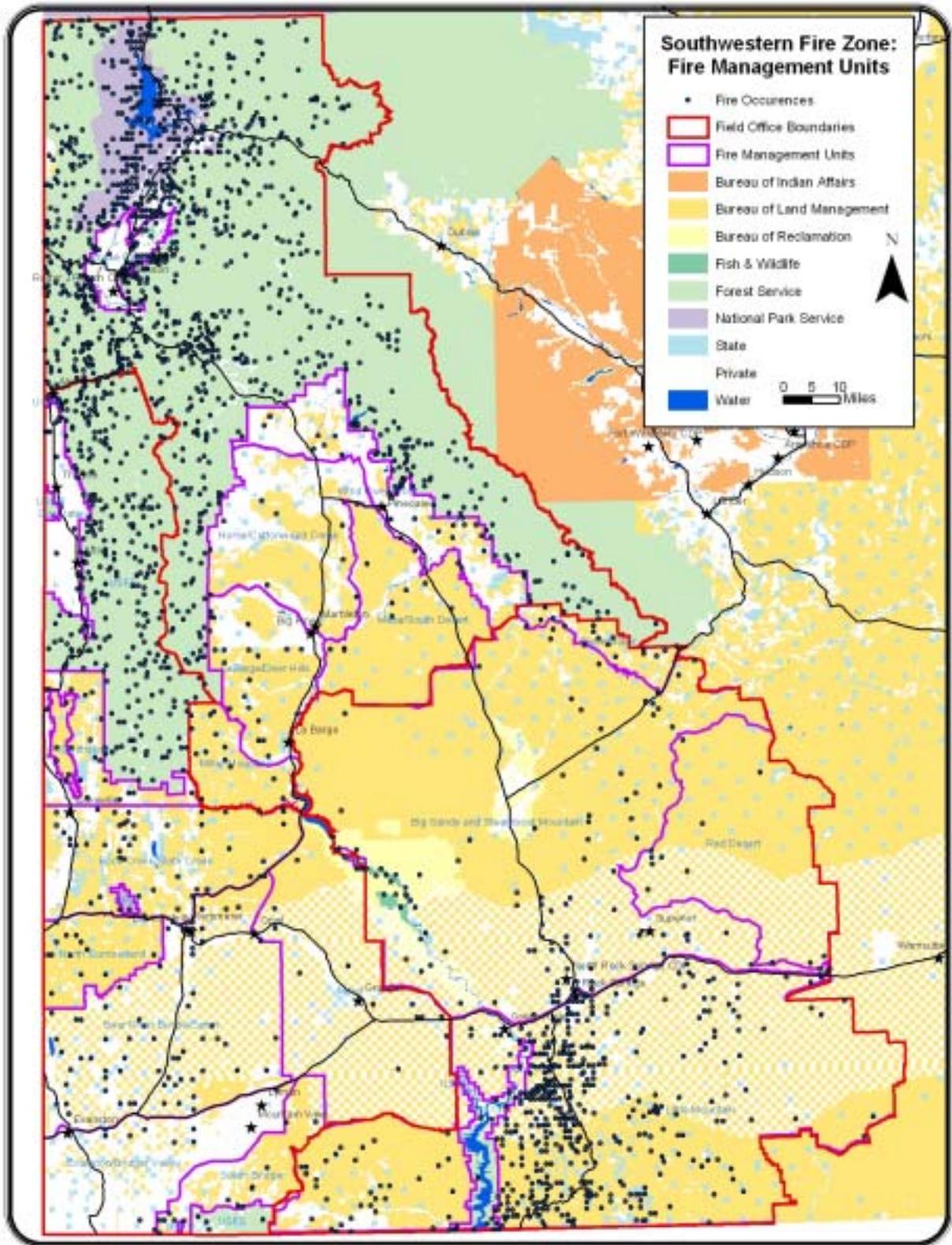
**Fire Management Plan Maps**

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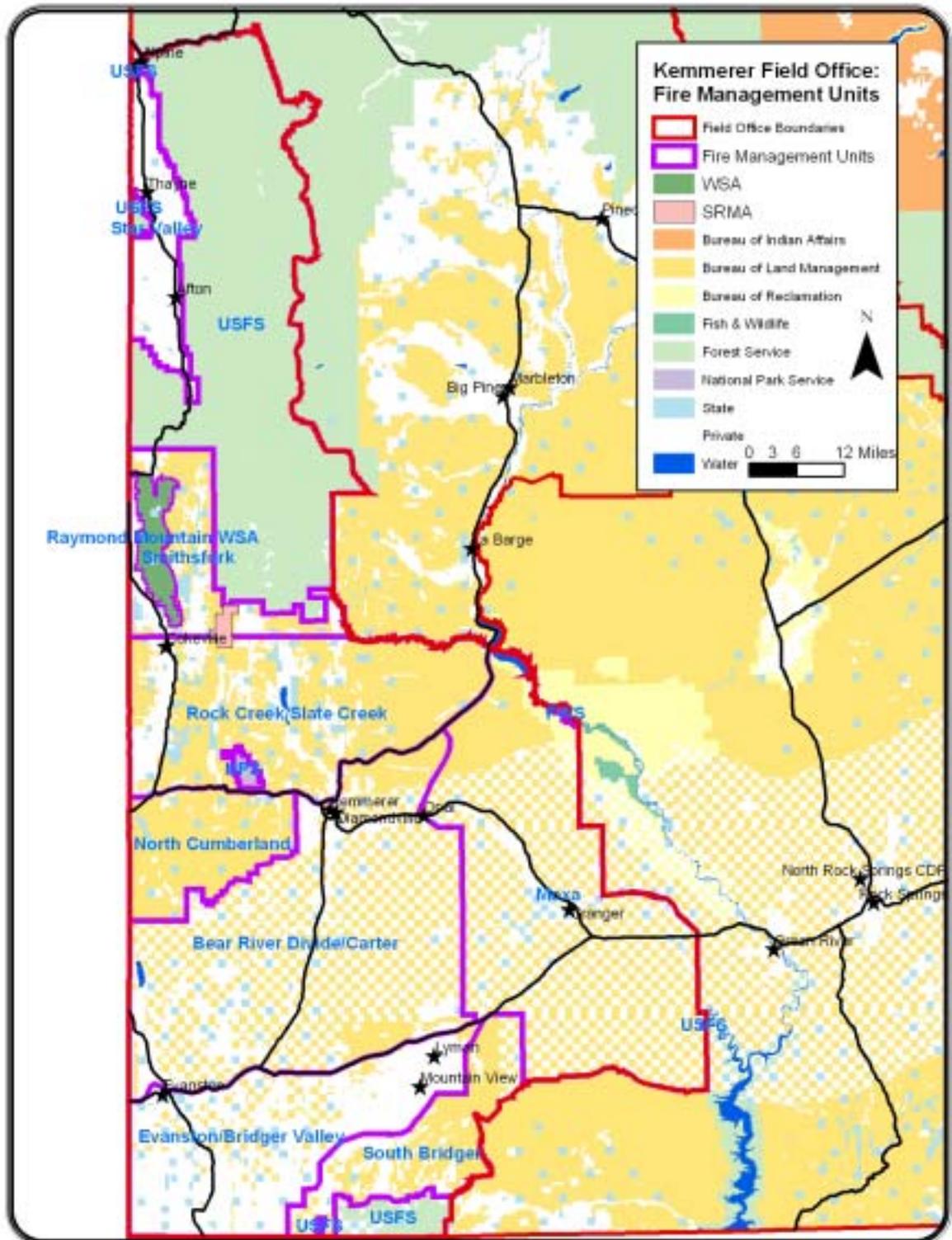
Map 1. Zone Fire Management Units

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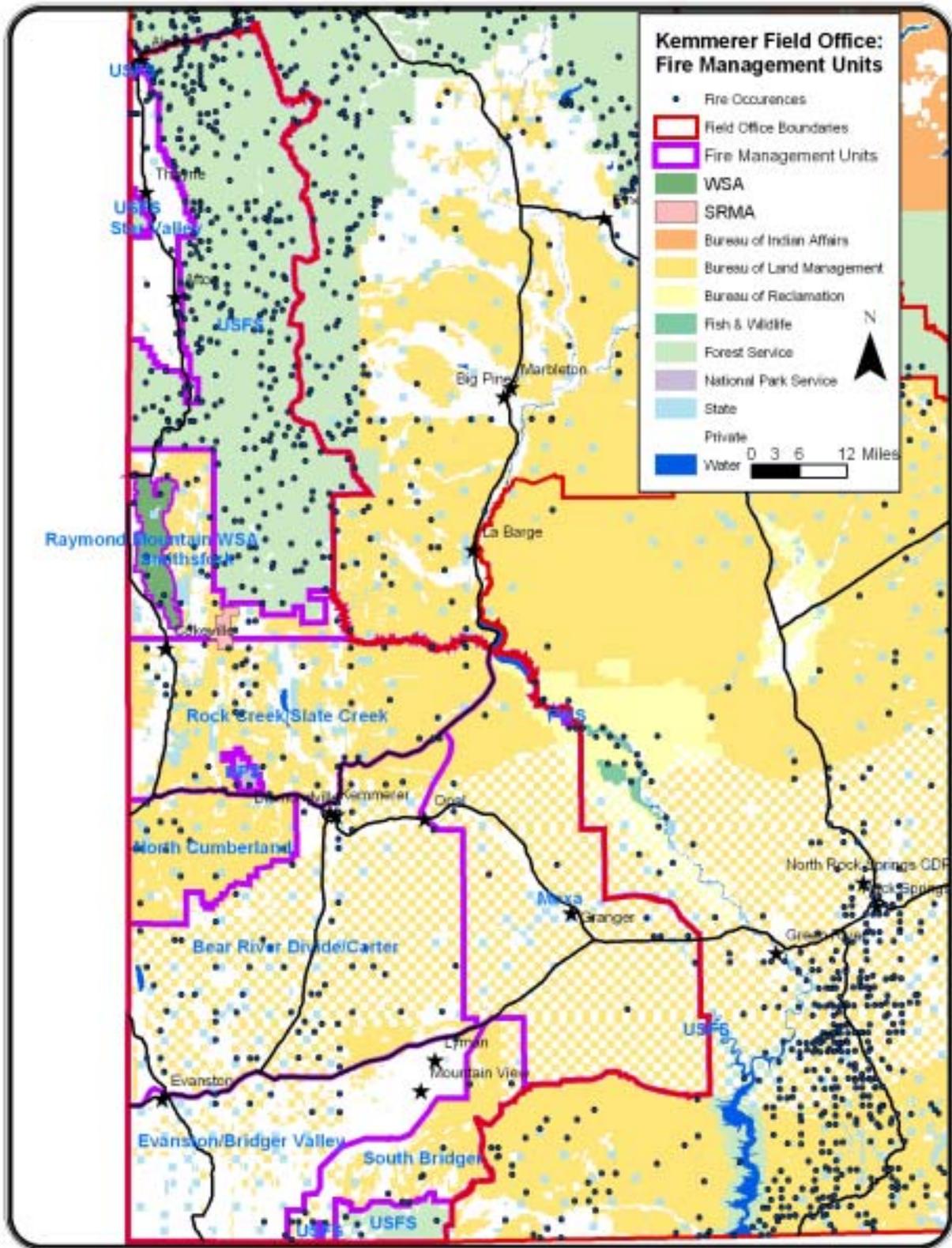
Map 2. Zone Fire Management Units with Fire Occurrences

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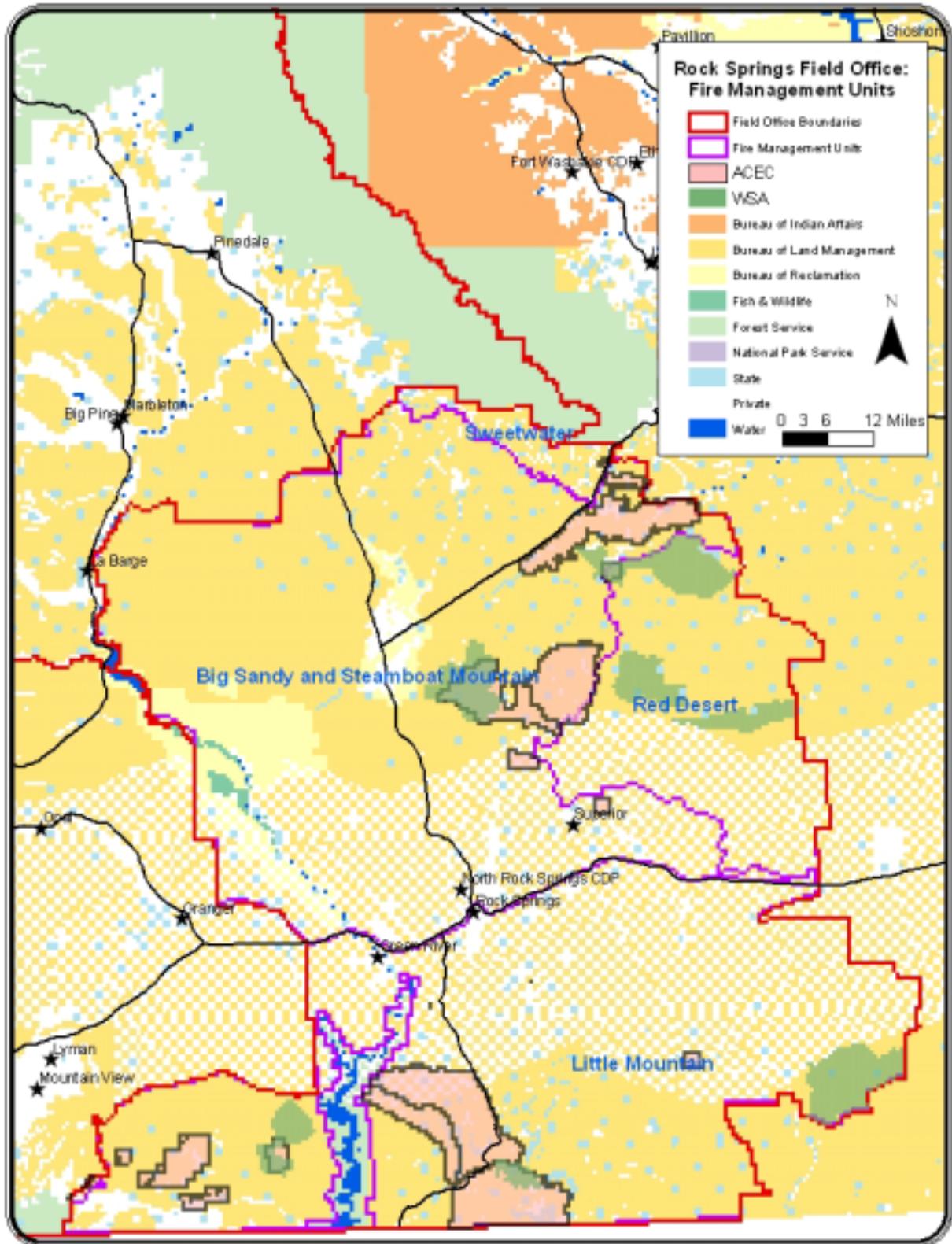
Map 3. Kemmerer Field Office Fire Management Units

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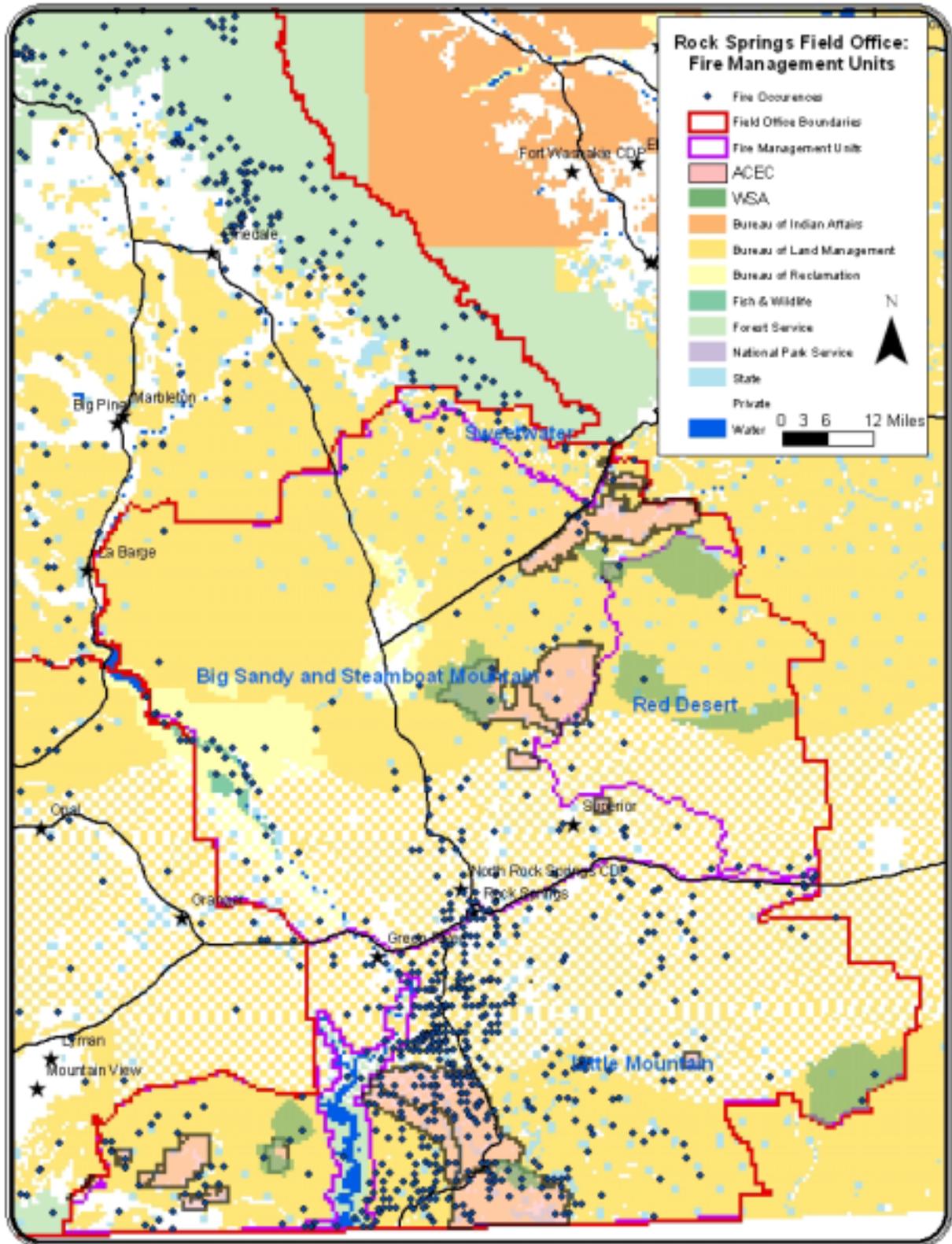
Map 4. Kemmerer Field Office Fire Occurrences

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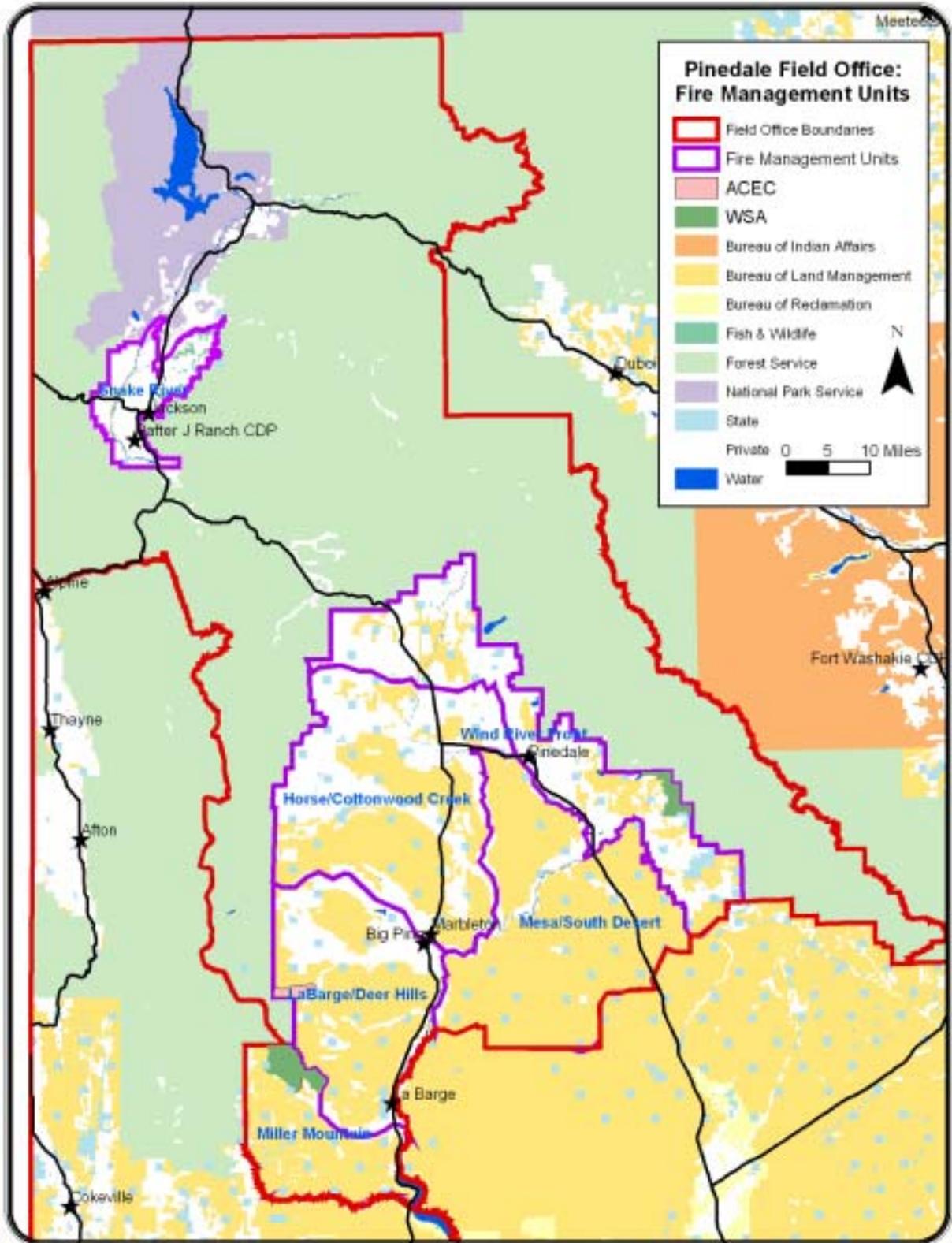
Map 5. Rock Springs Field Office Fire Management Units

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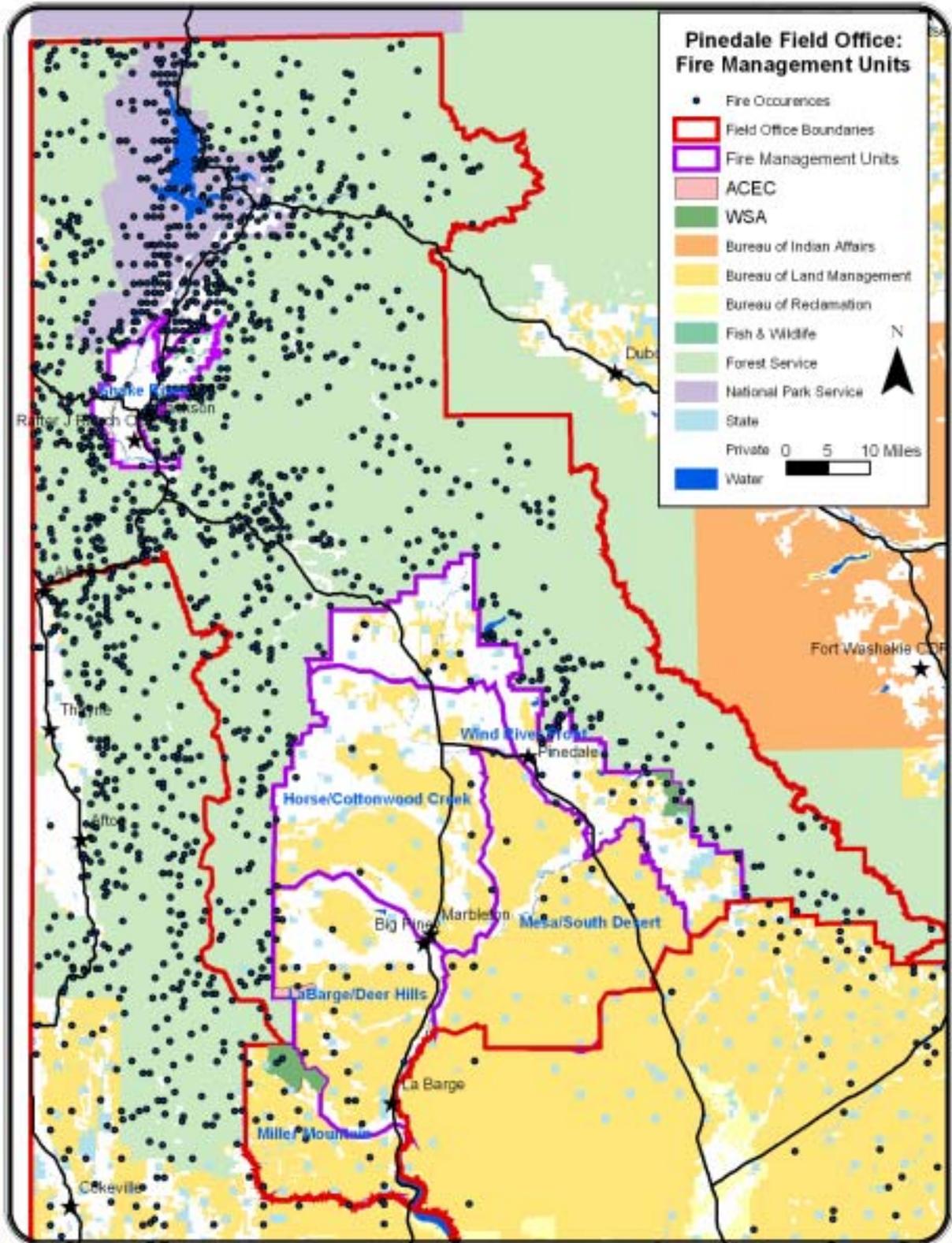
Map 6. Rock Springs Field Office Fire Occurrences

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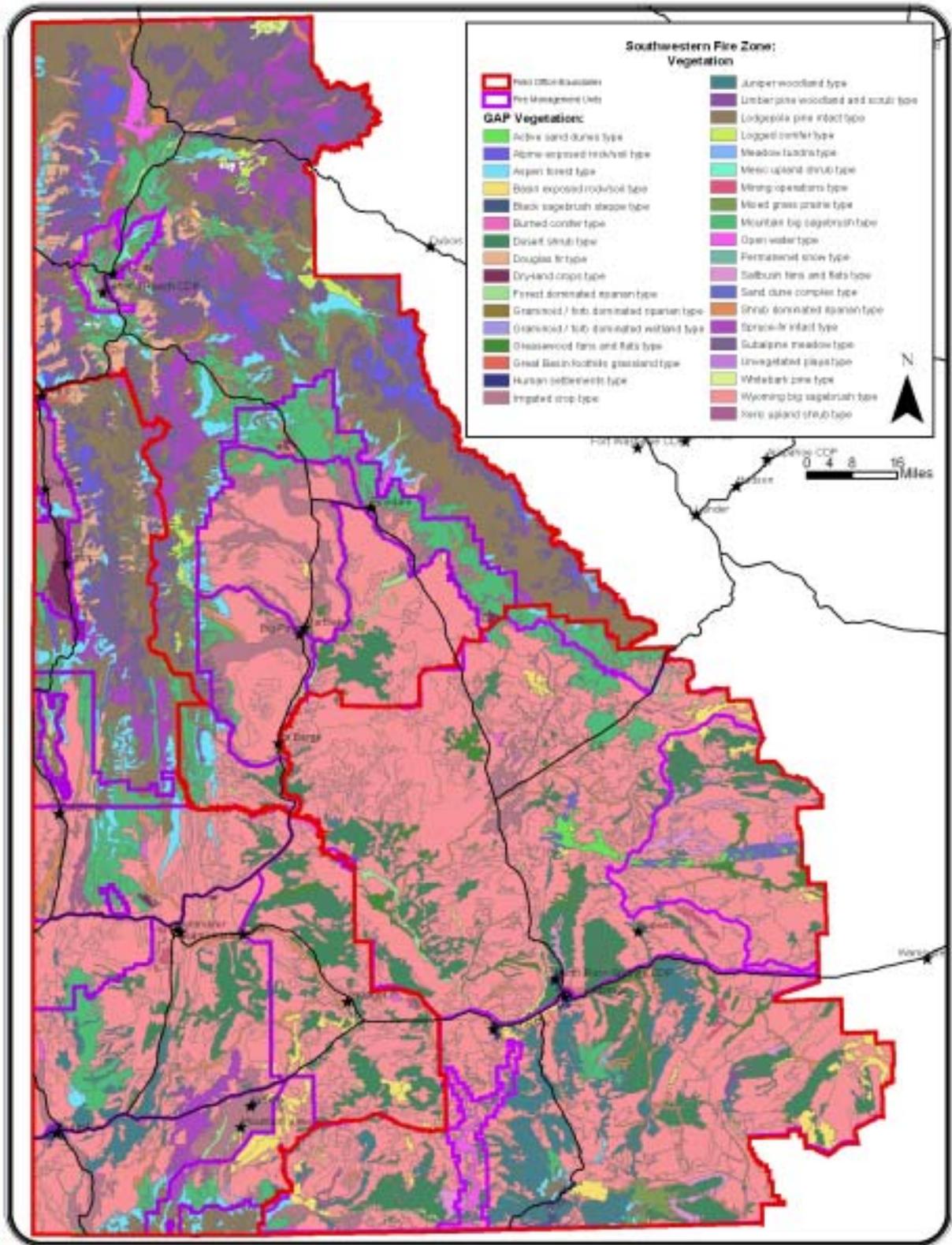
Map 7. Pinedale Field Office Fire Management Units

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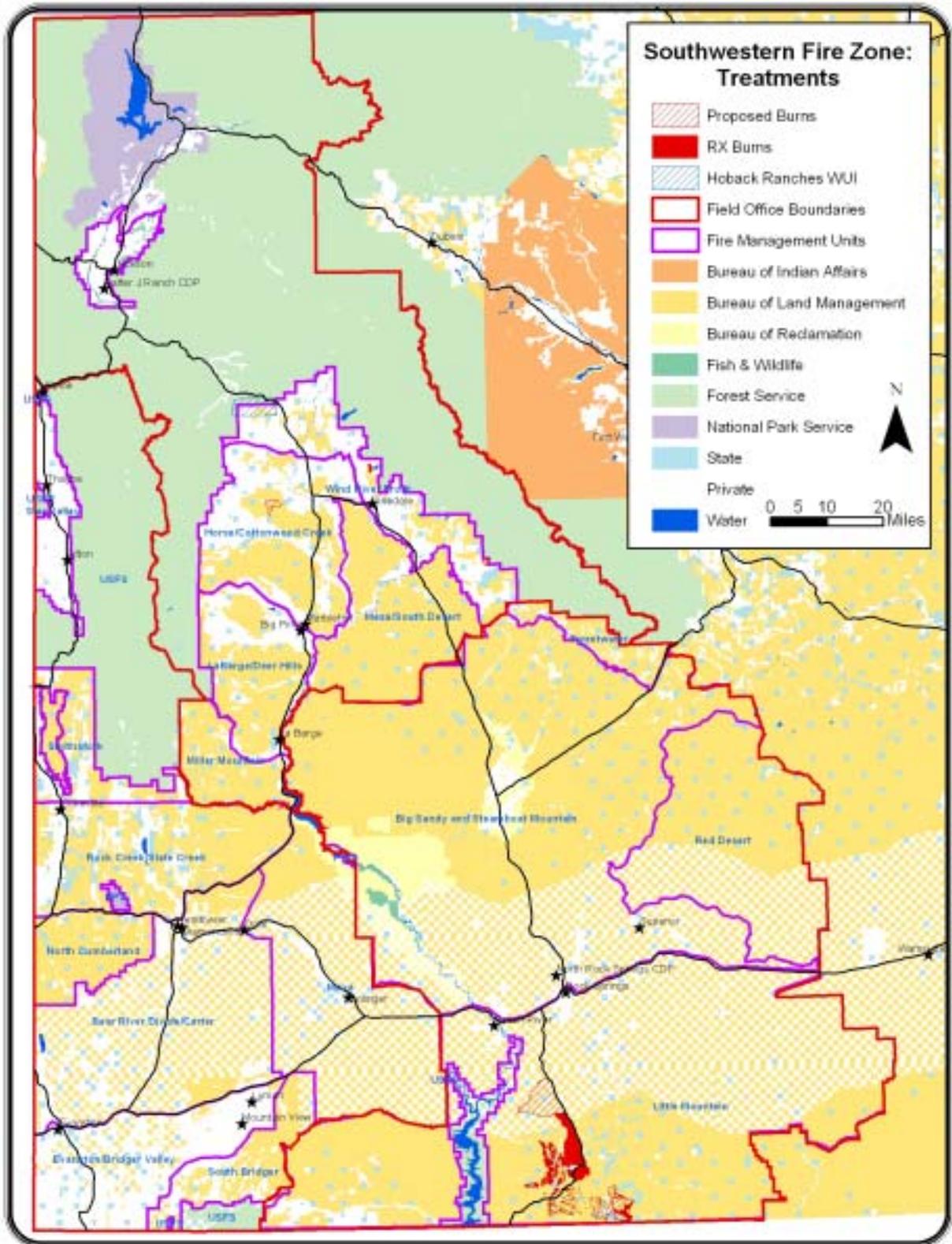
Map 8. Pinedale Field Office Fire Occurrences

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Map 9. Zone Vegetation Map

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Map 10. Zone Treatment Areas

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## Acronyms

FMP – Fire Management Plan

FMU – Fire Management Unit

BMP - Best Management Practice

WSA – Wilderness Study Area

WFU – Wildland Fire Use

CC – Condition Class

FF – Fire Frequency

LUP – Land Use Plan

RMP – Resource Management Plan

FMZ – Fire Management Zones

WUI – Wildland Urban Interface (includes Industrial Interface)

BAER – Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (Rehab)

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

ARM – Appropriate Management Response

FIL – Fire Intensity Level

BI- Burning Index

FR – Fire Regime

MIST – Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics

Fire Size Class – A .1 - .25 acre  
B .26 – 9.9 acres  
C 10 – 99.9 acres  
D 100 – 299.9 acres  
E 300 - 999.9 acres  
F 1,000 – 4,999.9 acres  
G 5,000+ acres

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FPU - Fire Planning Unit