RECORD OF DECISION
And
APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
For the
SNAKE RIVER PLANNING AREA

Prepared by:
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ABREVIATIONS

AUM	Animal Unit Month
APD	Application for Permit to Drill
BA	Biological Assessment
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BO	Biological Opinion
BTNF	Bridger-Teton National Forest
CASTNet	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
COE	U.S Army Corps of Engineers
DDE	dichlorophenyl-dichloroethylene
DDT	dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESR	Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GTNP	Grand Teton National Park
GYBEWG	Greater Yellowstone Bald Eagle Working Group
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
JHCA	Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
MBEWG	Montana Bald Eagle Working Group
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPS	National Park Service
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
RDI	River Diversity Index
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
SIP	State Implementation Plan (for air quality)
TCP	Traditional cultural properties
USBR	United States Bureau of Reclamation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual resource management
WARMS	Wyoming Air Resources Monitoring System
WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
WOC	Wyoming Outdoor Council

SNAKE RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This Snake River Resource Management Plan (RMP) provides management direction for approximately 981 acres of public land surface and 15,123 acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Jackson Hole area of Teton County, northwestern Wyoming (Table 1). The planning area is bounded on the east, south, and west by the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary and on the north by the Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) boundary (Map 1).

As provided by FLPMA, the BLM has the responsibility to plan for and manage the public lands. As defined by the Act, the *public lands* are those Federally owned lands, and any interest in lands (e.g., Federally owned mineral estate), that are administered by the Secretary of the Interior, specifically through the Bureau of Land Management. Within the Snake River RMP planning area, there are varied and intermingled land surface ownerships and overlapping mineral ownerships. Therefore, the administrative jurisdictions for land use planning and for managing the land surface and minerals also are varied, intermingled, and overlapping.

Because of this, the completed Snake River RMP will not include planning and management decisions for lands or minerals within the planning area that are privately owned or owned by the State of Wyoming, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or local governments. Table 1 summarizes the land surface and mineral ownership and administrative relationships for the area (also see Map 1). In areas where the Federal land surface is administered by the USFWS, and the Federal mineral estate is administered by the BLM, the land surface planning and management decisions are the responsibility of the USFWS. Any BLM administrative responsibilities within these areas (for example, actions concerning the Federal mineral estate) are handled case by case and are guided by the policies, procedures, and plans of the USFWS.

The 21 surface parcels of public lands are also shown in a series of close-up maps (Maps 2-8). Descriptions of the parcels may be found in Appendix 5.

The planning and management decisions on the Snake River RMP are represented by a selection of management objectives and management actions which resolve the planning issues and provide for sustained multiple use management of the public lands and resources.

Appendix material referenced in the RMP provides information that can be used in implementing the RMP decisions. The materials in the appendices are not RMP decisions. Maps related to the RMP are included. More detailed maps are on file in the Pinedale Field Office. The information on the maps is dynamic and subject to change as new resource information and data are acquired.

All public land and resource uses in the planning area must conform with the decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in this RMP. Detailed decisions for the implementation of specific projects will be made through activity planning and environmental review that will be completed prior to the implementation of the project. Likewise, the authorization of specific uses will be based on conformance with RMP decisions and completion of environmental analyses.

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objectives for management of air quality are to maintain or enhance air quality, protect public health and safety and sensitive resources, and minimize emissions that could cause atmospheric deposition or visibility impairment, within the scope of BLM's authority.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Authorized actions on public lands will avoid violation of Wyoming and national air quality standards. This will be accomplished through the coordination of activities with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Air quality standards are maintained by the State of Wyoming, which determines whether or not it is necessary to regulate emissions. When necessary, the state will regulate emissions through its State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality by promulgating the appropriate rule. Objectives of the State of Wyoming SIP will include the protection of public health and safety and the well being of sensitive natural resources. BLM will strive to minimize, within the scope of its authority, any emissions that may add to atmospheric deposition, cause violations of air quality standards, or degrade visibility. See also the air quality regulations in Appendix 1.

Cooperation with EPA and other agencies on monitoring air quality at the 3 CASTNet stations, 8 NADP stations, 6 IMPROVE stations and 4 WARMS stations in Wyoming will continue. The EPA will provide oversight responsibility during this process and will approve the State of Wyoming SIP.

Air quality standards and guidelines will be developed as needed in coordination with the Wyoming DEQ and the EPA. State standards enforced in the planning area will be as strict as or stricter than federal standards.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions and guidance that may apply to air quality management activities.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: The objectives for management of the cultural and natural history resources are to protect and preserve important cultural, natural history, and paleontological resources. Of particular concern are significant sites of historic or prehistoric human habitation, sites demonstrating unique ethnic affiliation, and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Site-specific inventories for cultural resources will be required before the start of surface-disturbing activities, or if BLM-administered lands are proposed to be transferred out of federal ownership. Adverse effects on significant cultural resources will be mitigated, or the resources themselves will be avoided.

Sites listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places will be managed for their local and national significance and in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the American Indians Religious Freedom Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as appropriate.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office will be consistent with the National Cultural Programmatic Agreement (1994) and the State Protocol Agreement between the Wyoming BLM State Director and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer (1998).

If sites considered sacred, sensitive, or respected by Native Americans, or if traditional cultural properties (TCP) are identified, they will be managed in consultation with affected Native American representatives.

The potential adverse effect created by transfer or sale of a National Register-eligible historic property to non-Federal ownership will need to be mitigated. Mitigation might include no sale or transfer of the historic property, formal data recovery, or by placing protective covenants on the patent.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to cultural and natural history resource management activities.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objective of the fire management program is to protect life, property, and resource values from wildfire.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Fire suppression will be coordinated through a protection agreement with the Bridger-Teton National Forest and an annual operating plan with Teton County.

Firefighting will emphasize minimum-impact suppression techniques unless public safety will be jeopardized. For example, the construction of fire lines will be avoided if natural firebreaks can be used.

The use of aerial fire suppression agents, surfactants, and foaming agents is approved for emergency fire suppression activities.

Fuels management and Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) activities could take place, although these activities would not include prescribed fire; rather, fuels management and ESR activities would be achieved through mechanical or other means.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to fire and fuels management activities.

HAZARD MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RESTORATION

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objectives of the hazard management and resource restoration program are to protect public health and safety and the environment on public lands, emphasize waste reduction for authorized actions, comply with applicable federal and state laws, prevent waste contamination from any authorized actions, minimize federal exposure to the liabilities associated with waste management on public lands, mitigate natural and physical hazards, and integrate hazardous materials and waste management policies and controls into all management programs.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: For authorized activities that involve hazardous materials or their use, precautions will be taken to guard against releases into the environment. In the event of a release of hazardous materials on the public land, appropriate warnings will be provided to potentially affected communities and individuals, and precautions will be taken against public exposure to contaminated areas.

Sale, exchange, or other transfer of public lands on which storage or disposal of hazardous substances has been known to occur will require public notification of the type and quantity of the substances.

Public lands contaminated with hazardous wastes will be reported, secured, and cleaned up according to federal and state laws, regulations, and contingency plans, including the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Parties responsible for contamination will be liable for cleanup and resource damage costs, as prescribed by law.

Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of hazardous materials and waste management on public land parcels will be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

Sites that have been mitigated or restored will be monitored.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to hazard management and resource restoration activities.

LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objectives for management of lands and realty are to retain existing public access to the parcels and to provide for continuing public access and use of the parcels. Actual ownership and/or management of the parcels will be by other public agencies or entities.

Access

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Public access to the parcels will be retained as a condition of their transfer to other agencies.

Information and directional signs will be posted on public lands, by the acquiring agency or entity, as appropriate.

The Wilson Bridge boat and river access site will be maintained. BLM will not pursue an access easement to the ramp.

A boat and river access site could be developed near the South Park Bridge by an agency or entity other than BLM.

Land Ownership Adjustments

Ownership of the parcels will be transferred from BLM. Parcels could be disposed of through transfer or sale to other agencies or public government entities to remain available for public use. If BLM is unable to transfer the lands, management agreements will be pursued to allow other

agencies or entities to manage public uses on the parcels. See also disposal criteria listed in Appendix 3.

Before transfer or sale of any parcel, a site-specific proposal will be required from the acquiring agency. Depending on the agency making the acquisition proposal and the proposed use of the parcel, an appropriate method of conveyance will be determined. Additional NEPA analysis and public comment periods will be conducted as required by the specific land law authorizing the land conveyance. The analysis will present to the public the identity of the proponent of the land transfer and all details of parcel management being considered. The conveyance will require that the lands be retained in public ownership, and that public access, open space, wildlife habitat, and recreation values be maintained. Disposal proposals will be analyzed on a case by case basis, and appropriate, specific restrictions based on the individual situation will be incorporated into any transfer document. The BLM 6740 Wetlands Manual, as well as all other relevant BLM policy, must be followed when land transfers are made.

Access easements will not be retained separately by BLM. Public access will be reserved under the terms of parcel disposal (transfer) (e.g., patent, deed, withdrawal, lease, cooperative management agreement).

BLM will not acquire recreation easements.

Any sale, exchange, or transfer of public land will include, where appropriate, the use of conservation easements to prohibit development and preserve scenic values, wildlife habitat, and open space.

Situations involving trespass on public land will be resolved, so the lands can be transferred unencumbered to other agencies or entities. The appropriate method for resolving any trespass will be determined on a case by case basis, after analysis of the specific situation.

Parcel 27 will be transferred to Teton County.

Public lands within the Snake River corridor are identified as unsuitable for agricultural development and are closed to desert land entry and agricultural lease.

Rights of Way

Rights-of-way proposals will be addressed case-by-case, with emphasis on avoiding conflict or sensitive areas. The location of rights-of-way to cross the Snake River on public land will only be allowed at Wilson Bridge and South Park Bridge.

The following will be right-of-way exclusion areas: raptor nesting and concentration areas; threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species habitat; BLM Wyoming sensitive species habitat when the species is documented to occur at that location; Endangered Species Act (ESA)-designated critical habitat.

The following will be right-of-way avoidance areas: big game crucial winter habitat; aquatic & wetland sites; Wyoming BLM sensitive species habitat; important cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Historic Register; and scenic areas identified as visual resource management (VRM) Class II areas (Map 9).

New, amended, or renewed surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of right-of-way maintenance and/or development will be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

The location of communication sites on public lands will be prohibited.

Withdrawals

Approximately 2,890 acres of public lands and mineral estate described in PLO 7143 (June 1, 1995) will remain closed to mineral or surface entry until June 1, 2005. (As described in the PLO, "mineral or surface entry" pertains to activities such as the staking and development of mining claims for locatable minerals and desert land entry, but does not apply to the sale, exchange, or transfer of public lands, or mineral leasing, or the extraction of sand and gravel through sales and permits). (Map 10)

Areas with rare or sensitive resources may be proposed for withdrawal from mineral and/or surface entry on a case-by-case basis.

A long-term protective withdrawal will be pursued for all public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area (15,123 acres) to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to lands and realty management activities.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objective for livestock grazing management is to maintain or improve ecological conditions for the benefit of livestock use, wildlife habitat, watershed values, and riparian areas.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The current amounts, kinds, and seasons of livestock grazing use will continue to be authorized as long as the parcels are held by BLM, unless monitoring indicates a grazing use adjustment is necessary, or an environmental assessment indicates a change in grazing use is appropriate.

Existing grazing allotments will be categorized as follows: Walton, I (parcel 9-10); Porter Estate, I (parcel 21); Snake River Ranch, M (parcel 23).

Adjustments in the levels, location, and timing of livestock grazing will be made as a result of monitoring and after consultation or negotiation with grazing permittees and other affected interests (including local and state governmental entities, as appropriate).

Fence construction on BLM parcels will require site-specific analysis. Fence construction and modification will conform to applicable fencing standards.

If a grazing lessee's adjacent property for any existing grazing lease is converted to other uses to the extent that livestock grazing is substantially excluded, then that grazing lease will expire, and will not be available to other applicants. This provision could ultimately affect 300 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock grazing use on about 544 acres. (Map 11)

No fall grazing will be permitted on parcels administered by BLM, unless the Standards for Healthy Rangelands are met and the fall grazing follows a plan that will help to achieve vegetation management objectives. An exception will be made for failure to meet Standard 2 for reasons other than livestock management. Generally, the grazing season will end on August 31 annually.

Relocation of fences to ownership boundaries, and marking of public lands contained therein, will be considered case by case to meet management objectives.

The implementation of management actions on the public lands, such as the use of grazing systems, land treatments, and range improvements, will be consistent with the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

All parcels not currently leased for livestock grazing will be closed to future applications.

Priority will be given to the modification of fences that are restricting wildlife movement in crucial big game habitat areas and along migration routes.

Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of range project construction and maintenance on public land parcels will be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to livestock grazing management activities.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objective for minerals management is to provide reduced opportunities for mineral exploration and development while emphasizing resource protection.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with mineral exploration and development will be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

Geothermal

Public lands and federal mineral estate throughout the planning area will be closed to geothermal leasing consideration.

Locatable Minerals

The public lands and mineral estate described in Public Land Order (PLO) 7143 (June 1, 1995; see Appendix 4) will remain closed to mineral entry and the staking and development of mining claims until June 1, 2005. (Map 10)

A long-term protective withdrawal will be pursued for all public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area (15,123 acres) to prohibit the staking and development of mining claims.

Oil and Gas

All public lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area (comprising about 15,123 acres) will be closed to leasing consideration for oil and gas.

Other Leasable Minerals

Public lands and federal mineral estate (15,123 acres) will be closed to leasing consideration for phosphate, sodium, coal and all other leasable minerals.

Salable Minerals

The extraction of sand and gravel will be considered, case-by-case, on public lands and federal mineral estate only in the active, unvegetated channel within the levees.

The mining of sand and gravel, and associated access across public lands for this purpose, will be subject to seasonal requirements to protect fish spawning, important wildlife habitat areas, and periods of high recreational use.

Existing access will be continued across public lands near the Wilson and South Park bridges for mining of salable minerals on adjacent privately owned lands.

Gravel extraction will be modified or stopped if damage to the river system or other resources becomes apparent.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to minerals management activities.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objectives for management of the off-highway vehicle management program are to minimize motorized vehicle use and to maintain existing opportunities for non-motorized vehicle use.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Use of motorized vehicles on public lands in the planning area will be limited to the following designated roads: the Munger Mountain road; levee road at the Walton parcel; levee road west of the Snake River and south of Wilson Bridge; the access road to the Wilson boat ramp; the Evans Gravel road; and the Fall Creek road. Other roads may be designated as needed on a case-by-case basis. (Map 12)

While the parcels are owned and managed by the BLM, nonmotorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails and limited seasonally where needed to protect wildlife habitat, except for authorized use.

OHV use limitations will be determined by the acquiring agency or entity.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to off-highway vehicle management activities.

PALEONTOLOGY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The management objective of the paleontology resources management program is to protect and preserve important paleontological resources.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The collection of vertebrate fossils on public lands will generally be prohibited. Only qualified institutions, individuals, or consultants who obtain a permit will be allowed to collect these fossils. Collecting common invertebrate fossils and petrified wood for hobby purposes will be allowed on public lands.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to paleontology resource management activities.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objectives for management of recreation use are to increase opportunities for quality recreation use and provide improved visitor services while protecting other sensitive resources, provide for responsible commercial recreation use for the protection of visitor and public health and safety and natural resources, and manage visitor use.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: No Special Recreation Management Area will be designated. No RAMP will be prepared by BLM. Other agencies or entities will manage recreation use.

Public access will be maintained at the Wilson Bridge boat and river access site for river floating.

A boat and river access site could be developed near the South Park Bridge by an agency or entity other than BLM. Additional river boating access could be developed by an agency or entity other than BLM.

BLM will not pursue rights-of-way for public recreation access.

The acquiring or managing agency or entity will determine the requirements for facility development, signs, user access fees, interpretive facilities, recreation permits, or other recreation management related activities.

In the interim prior to parcel transfer, surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with the construction and use of roads and recreational facilities will be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

A cooperative agreement(s) for recreation management could be pursued in the interim prior to parcel transfer, if another agency or government entity were found to lead the recreation management effort.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to recreation management activities.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objective for management of vegetation resources is to maintain or improve the diversity of plant communities to support wildlife habitat, watershed

protection, scenic resources, and livestock grazing; control existing noxious weed infestations and prevent their spread.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Evaluation and designation of critical habitat for threatened or endangered plant species on public lands will be coordinated with the USFWS. If proposed surface-disturbing activities could affect these species, the USFWS will be consulted as required by the Endangered Species Act.

Inventories for threatened, endangered, or BLM-Wyoming sensitive plant species will be required before surface-disturbing activities are conducted on public lands in areas with potential habitat for these species.

Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with all types of vegetation management on public land parcels will be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

Noxious weeds and other invasive species

Noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation on public lands in the Jackson Hole Weed Management Area will be controlled in accordance with the Jackson Hole Weed Management Plan and applicable BLM regulations and policy.

Noxious weed treatments on public lands will avoid bird nesting seasons and other times when loss of cover or disturbance by equipment will be detrimental to wildlife. Projects that may affect threatened or endangered animals or plants, or BLM-Wyoming sensitive species, will be postponed or modified to protect these species. As necessary, the USFWS will be consulted.

Interpretive signs could be placed at selected public access areas with information on the spread and control of noxious weeds and other invasive species.

Control of noxious weeds and other invasive species may include manual, mechanical, biological, or chemical methods. If herbicides were proposed for use, those with minimum toxicity to wildlife and fish will be selected. All herbicides applied must be on the BLM-approved list and applied in accordance with EPA label requirements.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to vegetation management activities.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objective for management of visual resources is to maintain or improve scenic values throughout the planning area, while allowing for modification and changes to occur to meet other resource objectives.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: In the interim prior to disposal, public lands will be managed in conformance with Class II VRM objectives, except parcels 13, 26, and 27, which will be Class III.

Any transfers of public lands will require, where appropriate, the use of conservation easements to prohibit development and preserve scenic values.

Pending parcel disposal, all proposals for surface-disturbing actions and/or facilities installation will be analyzed for impacts to visual values. Appropriate mitigation will be developed and incorporated into project design in accordance with assigned VRM objectives.

Visual resources will be considered before authorizing land uses that may affect them.

Facilities or structures, such as power lines and storage tanks, will be screened, painted, buried, and otherwise designed to blend with the surrounding landscape.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to visual resource management activities.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: The objectives for management of watershed resources are to maintain or improve water quality and comply with Wyoming DEQ water quality standards. Reduce erosion by improving vegetative production and ground cover, and to maintain or improve wetland and riparian habitat condition.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: The protection of watershed resources will be considered in the analysis of project proposals. Wyoming DEQ and Wyoming BLM Best Management Practices will be applied.

Riparian areas will be maintained for wildlife habitat as a condition of transfer of the public land parcels.

Applications for water rights for water-related projects on public lands will be filed with the Wyoming State Engineer's office.

Efforts will continue to improve water quality by cleaning up dumpsites on public lands, and encouraging dumpsite cleanup on adjacent lands.

Riparian areas will be maintained for wildlife habitat as a condition of transfer of the public land parcels. Riparian habitats that are outside the Snake River channel will be maintained in proper functioning condition. (Riparian habitats on the Snake River proper, between the levees, are in nonfunctioning condition because of the effects of flood control. This condition will remain constant.)

To reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution, pollution prevention plans for developments will be required under the “Wyoming Storm Water Discharge Program.”

Point sources of pollution will be subject to appropriate regulations and cleanup measures.

Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with watershed management on public land parcels will be subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to watershed management activities.

WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: The objective for management of wildlife and fish habitat is to maintain or enhance riparian and upland habitat for wildlife and fish and promote species diversity.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with wildlife and fish management will be subject to appropriate mitigation as developed through the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix 2.

Wildlife Habitat

Measures to protect avian habitats will include seasonal restrictions on surface-disturbing activities within distances to be determined based on species, individuals, and/or habitat characteristics.

The acquiring or managing agency or entity will make decisions regarding actions necessary to maintain wildlife habitat.

Priority will be given to the modification of fences that are restricting wildlife movement in crucial big game habitat areas and along migration routes.

To the extent possible, suitable habitat and forage will be provided to support wildlife populations defined in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) Strategic Plan objectives.

Public lands in the Snake River corridor will be identified as public safety zones where the use of M-44 sodium cyanide devices, leg-hold traps, and kill-type traps are prohibited. Evaluation of other types of animal control methods undertaken to resolve human-wildlife conflicts will be conducted by and coordinated with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services.

Raptor nest sites and roosts, cottonwood trees, riparian areas, and other habitats related to raptor foraging and concentration areas will be protected by restricting surface-disturbing activities on public lands near these habitat areas.

Fence construction on public lands will require site-specific analysis. Fence construction and modification will conform to applicable standards.

Fish Habitat

Projects that maintain or improve fisheries habitat as much as possible in a leveed system will be considered. Cooperative efforts with WGFD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Teton County, and others will continue. Projects that have the potential to, or do, adversely affect fisheries or aquatic habitats will be mitigated to the extent possible. This mitigation could include, but will not be limited to, actions such as timing the project to minimize effects or disapproving a project if the adverse impacts are unacceptable.

Surface-disturbing activities that will add sediment to the Snake River will be prohibited when fish are spawning or during egg incubation periods.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The “reasonable and prudent measures” identified by the USFWS in its Biological Opinion for Threatened and Endangered Species will be endorsed. The USFWS will be consulted as required or as necessary in accordance with the ESA.

If proposed surface-disturbing or disruptive activities may affect threatened or endangered species, the USFWS will be consulted as required by the ESA.

The evaluation and designation of critical habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife species on public lands will be coordinated with the USFWS.

Sensitive Species

If proposed surface-disturbing or disruptive activities may affect BLM-Wyoming designated sensitive species or their habitat, the appropriate mitigation will be applied to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Mitigation will be consistent with the accepted management objectives and best practices for managing those species, when known.

See other resource management prescriptions in this document for other prescriptions that may apply to wildlife and fish habitat management activities.