CHAPTER 2
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

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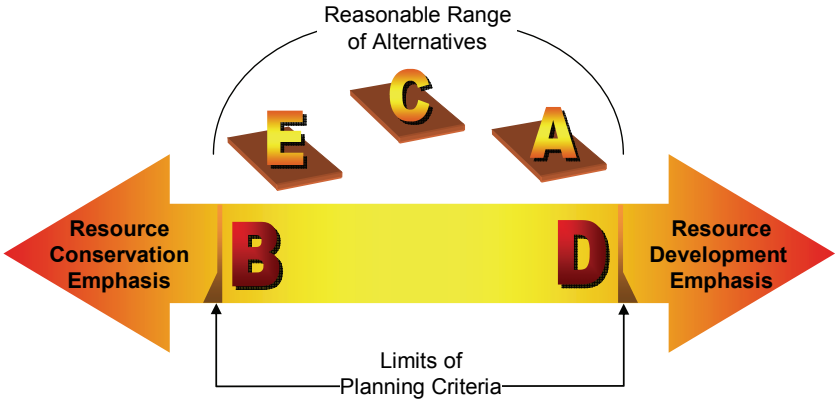
CHAPTER 2
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates five resource management alternatives identified by the letters A, B, C, D, and E. The No Action (Alternative A) represents the continuation of current management direction. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) developed the Action Alternatives B, C, and D with input from the public during scoping, cooperating agencies, and BLM resource specialists. Once developed, the BLM analyzed alternatives A through D to predict their impacts on the environment. The BLM used the impacts analysis of alternatives A through D, along with knowledge of specific issues raised throughout the planning process; recommendations from cooperating agencies and BLM resource specialists; consideration of planning criteria; and resolution of resource conflicts to select Alternative E, the Preferred Alternative. After careful consideration of both public and internal comments received on the Draft RMP and EIS, adjustments and clarifications were made to Alternative E. As modified, Alternative E is now presented as the Proposed Casper RMP. Each alternative provides a different emphasis for managing public lands and resources within the planning area, and each Action Alternative represents a complete and reasonable land use plan that meets the purpose and need described in Chapter 1.

This EIS evaluates five resource management alternatives identified by the letters A, B, C, D, and E.

The BLM manages public lands and resource values according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Given these principles and the inherent conflicting nature of resource conservation and resource development, alternative formulation occurs within the limits of planning criteria that address the needs of present and future generations, while remaining flexible for periodic adjustments. This approach resulted in a reasonable range of alternatives that vary by their emphasis on allowable uses and management actions that affect conservation and development. For example, restrictions on oil and gas development in and around occupied greater sage-grouse leks may exclude or constrain one land use (i.e., oil and gas development) to protect another (i.e., special status species – wildlife). Of course, not all resources or resource uses are mutually exclusive, but rarely do actions beneficial to one resource benefit all the other resources and resource uses the BLM must manage. The multitude of resources within the planning area, coupled with the requirement to manage for multiple use and sustained yield, requires developing alternatives across a continuous spectrum from resource conservation to resource development. For example, overall, Alternative B places more emphasis on resource conservation, whereas Alternative D places more emphasis on resource development. The remaining alternatives (A, C, and E) fall in between B and D on the continuous spectrum, as shown in Figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1. Reasonable Range of Alternatives for the Casper Planning Area



The BLM formulated each Action Alternative to meet the purpose and need of this Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision. Although the No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need, its inclusion and consideration is required by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. The alternatives differ primarily with respect to their emphases on resource conservation or resource development and the degree to which they address the key planning issues and planning criteria identified in Chapter 1. Action Alternatives or their components (e.g., allowable uses and management actions) that did not fall within the planning criteria, did not meet the purpose and need, or that are already part of an existing plan, policy, requirement, or administrative function that will continue under the revised RMP, were considered, but not carried forward for detailed analysis in this EIS.

2.1 Alternative Formulation

The BLM conducted a series of three workshops in the Casper Field Office with an Interdisciplinary (ID) Team comprising BLM staff and local, state, and federal cooperating agencies. During the initial workshop, the ID Team shared their respective knowledge and expertise and collaborated to identify goals and objectives (desired outcomes) representing a full range of alternatives for each resource. The second workshop narrowed the scope of alternatives to a reasonable range limited by the planning criteria.

The BLM formulated three alternatives (B, C, and D) from the information gathered during the first two workshops; the ID Team reviewed these Action Alternatives during the third workshop. During the third workshop, the ID Team also provided BLM management with recommendations for selecting the Preferred Alternative—Alternative E. After careful consideration of both public and internal comments received on the Draft RMP and EIS, Alternative E has been modified, and is now presented as the Proposed RMP. Compared to current management, the Proposed RMP increases conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources. Alternative E also emphasizes moderate constraints on leasing for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals. The Proposed RMP also:

1. Reflects the best combination of decisions to achieve BLM's multiple use mission, goals, and policies.
2. Best meets the purpose and need and addresses the identified planning issues.
3. Considers recommendations from the public and cooperating agencies.

The BLM conducted a series of three workshops in the Casper Field Office with an Interdisciplinary (ID) Team comprising BLM staff and local, state, and federal cooperating agencies.

2.2 Alternative Components

Alternatives described in this chapter represent approaches to addressing key planning issues (see Chapter 1) and to managing resources and resource uses in the planning area. Each alternative comprises two categories of land use planning decisions: (1) desired outcomes (goals and objectives) and (2) allowable uses and management actions. These two categories, as well as the Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) scenario for oil and gas and Reasonable Foreseeable Actions (RFAs), are discussed below.

2.2.1 Desired Outcomes (Goals and Objectives)

Goals and objectives provide overarching direction for BLM actions in meeting the agency's legal, regulatory, policy, and strategic requirements. Goals and objectives initially were identified during the first workshop and refined through subsequent collaboration with cooperating agencies. Goals are broad statements of desired outcome, but generally are not measurable. Objectives are more specific statements of a desired outcome that may include a measurable component. Objectives generally are anticipated to achieve the stated goals.

2.2.2 Allowable Uses and Management Actions

Allowable uses and management actions comprise the second category of land use planning decisions and are anticipated to achieve the desired outcomes (goals and objectives). Alternatives were refined to address planning issues, resolve resource conflicts, improve consistency, and ensure resource-specific decisions for the following categories in the RMP revision process: (1) Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources; (2) Resource Uses and Support; and (3) Special Designations.

Management actions are proactive measures or limitations intended to guide BLM activities in the planning area.

Management actions are proactive measures or limitations intended to guide BLM activities in the planning area. Two types of management actions are included in the alternatives. The first is *management actions common to all alternatives*, which will apply regardless of what alternative is selected. The second is *management actions by alternative*, which represent the choice(s) considered across alternatives.

Allowable uses identify where land uses are allowed, restricted, or prohibited on all BLM-administered surface and federal mineral estate in the planning area. Alternatives may include specific land use restrictions to meet goals and objectives and may exclude certain land uses to protect resource values. For example, alternatives considered for this RMP revision prohibit surface occupancy (i.e., no surface occupancy [NSO]) by oil and gas development within occupied greater sage-grouse leks and associated buffers. Because the alternatives identify whether particular land uses are allowed, restricted, or prohibited, allowable uses often include a spatial (e.g., map) component.

The second type of management action, *management actions by alternative*, represents the range of choices considered across alternatives. An example of this type of management action is to restore riparian habitat to address issues of water quality and (or) fish and wildlife habitat. In this example, the acreage or mileage of riparian habitat to restore varies by alternative, whereas the action (restore riparian habitat) is retained for all alternatives.

Although anticipated to achieve desired outcomes, the components described above may not be achieved during the planning period due to limitations in funding or staffing, changing policies or priorities, or new information. These factors could also affect the rate of RMP implementation. It is important to note that the RMP is strategic in nature, and, while it provides an overarching vision for managing resources in the planning area, it must also be flexible to changing priorities, information, and circumstances.

2.2.3 Reasonable Foreseeable Development and Reasonable Foreseeable Action Scenarios

The BLM projected RFA scenario for each resource program under each alternative (see Appendix M). Using trend data, the RFAs predict actions and associated surface disturbance acreage for each resource program. For example, RFAs for the livestock grazing program predict the number of infrastructure developments (e.g., springs, wells, pits, reservoirs, fences, and pipelines) and estimated surface disturbance acreage for each alternative over the life of the plan. For oil and gas, the prediction is referred to as an RFD scenario. An RFD for oil and gas was prepared as a long-term projection of oil and gas exploration, development, production, and reclamation activity and can be found at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/. The RFD predicts the number of wells and estimated acres of surface disturbance for the unconstrained (baseline) and each alternative scenario. The allowable uses, management actions, RFAs, and RFD form the basis for the impact analysis of alternatives described in Chapter 4.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) Reauthorization of 2000, Public Law 106-469, directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an inventory of oil and natural gas resources beneath federal lands. The Act also directed the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) to identify the extent and nature of any restrictions to resource development. As a result, the USDI, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S.

Department of Energy released the report, *Scientific Inventory of Onshore Federal Lands' Oil and Gas Resources and Reserves and the Extent and Nature of Restrictions or Impediments to their Development* (referred to as the "EPCA Inventory"), in January 2003. In addition to EPCA, the final RMP will help to address the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, including oil and gas development, by identifying areas within the planning area suitable for energy development.

The BLM is integrating the results of the EPCA Inventory into this RMP revision; therefore, the EPCA findings are common to all alternatives in this EIS. The oil and gas resource inventory data are integrated into the RFD scenario for oil and gas that predicts future oil and gas development within the planning area for the unconstrained scenario. Using land use constraints (e.g., NSO) associated with allowable uses and management actions, expertise, and industry knowledge, the RFD projects the approximate number of wells that might be developed under the constrained scenarios for each alternative (see Appendix M). For example, allowable use restrictions that exclude oil and gas leasing differ by alternative relative to the size of area excluded. The difference in the area excluded corresponds to a difference in the number of wells projected for each alternative. Moreover, because development of each well requires surface disturbance, the acreage of surface disturbance likewise varies by alternative. Oil and gas lease stipulations may be excepted, modified, or waived by the BLM authorized officer according to the criteria outlined in Appendix F as a result of site-specific environmental analysis.

The BLM is integrating the results of the EPCA Inventory into this RMP revision; therefore, the EPCA findings are common to all alternatives in this EIS.

2.3 Alternatives Considered, But Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis

The following alternatives were considered, but not carried forward for detailed analysis because (1) they would not fulfill requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) or other existing laws or regulations; (2) they did not meet the purpose and need; (3) they were already part of an existing plan, policy, or administrative function; or (4) they did not fall within the limits of the planning criteria. The FLPMA requires the BLM to manage public lands and resources according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, including recognizing the Nation's needs for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber. Moreover, the BLM is required by law to recognize existing valid rights on public lands and manage public lands according to existing laws, including, but not limited to, the General Mining Law of 1872 and the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970. Specific alternatives considered, but not carried forward for detailed analysis follow.

The BLM assesses and monitors resource conditions and trends and considers the best information available to either maintain or improve the health of the land to fulfill this mandate.

- *Suspend all existing federal minerals leasing and development operations and cancel existing oil and gas leases.* The BLM must, by law, recognize all valid existing rights.
- *Emphasize the protection of resources by removing most, if not all, human uses.* Management actions including closure or prohibition of various resource uses over portions of the planning area are included in the alternatives.
- *Establish the entire planning area as a Management Area (MA) to meet Class I Visual Resource Management (VRM) objectives.* The BLM conducted a visual inventory according to BLM Manual Handbook 8410-1, *Visual Resource Inventory*, and established four VRM designations according to BLM Manual 8400, *Visual Resource Management.*
- *Remove all stipulations and restrictions from oil and gas leases.* The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and

future generations. This includes encouraging the use of sound resource management practices to restore and maintain land conditions. The BLM assesses and monitors resource conditions and trends and considers the best information available to either maintain or improve the health of the land to fulfill this mandate.

- *Remove existing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations.* ACEC designations in the existing plan include the Jackson Canyon and the Salt Creek Hazardous ACECs. Additional areas were nominated for consideration as ACECs during the scoping process. The BLM evaluated the importance and relevance of existing and nominated ACEC designations. Based on this evaluation, consideration of planning issues, and input from the public and cooperating agencies, the BLM carried forward the Jackson Canyon ACEC for all alternatives. The Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC was carried forward for three of the five alternatives.
- *Open the entire planning area to unregulated public access, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and other resource uses*. The BLM is required to provide safe facilities and conditions for visitors, users, and employees using public lands. Moreover, the BLM is responsible for protecting the public lands from illegal dumping of hazardous materials, theft or damage of federal property, public misuse of material resources, and negligent activities that cause resource damage. This alternative was not carried forward for detailed analysis because it does not fulfill the requirements of the FLPMA and other existing laws, does not meet purpose and need, and does not fall within the limits of the planning criteria.
- *Mandate directional and (or) horizontal drilling.* When the need for resource protection overrides a vertical well-drilling proposal, a directional (i.e., "s" shaped, slant, deep kick-off) well may be an option. However, horizontal wells are typically not drilled for surface resource protection purposes. Horizontal wells allow more of the target reservoir to be exposed to the wellbore (Molvar 2003).

  Directional wells generally are used to complete zones not located directly below the drilling rig. Current technologies, along with large reserves, make it possible in some parts of the world (e.g., Wytch Farm oil field in Dorset, England) to drill to a bottom hole location several miles from the surface location. In the Rocky Mountain Region, IHS Energy Group (2006) well data indicate that directional and (or) horizontal wells have increased to about 25 percent of all new wells drilled in this region. The Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario for Oil and Gas (BLM 2005c) provides additional information on directional and horizontal drilling in the Casper Field Office area. This document can be found at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper/.

  In the planning area, circumstances may result in the need to drill a directional and (or) horizontal well. Those circumstances could include the following:

  - Adverse geologic and topographical features.
  - The need to contact more of the reservoir.
  - A high density of cultural and historic material requiring in-depth testing and excavation.
  - National Historic Trails (NHTs) and Other Historic Trails viewshed considerations.
  - Avoiding critical habitats of threatened, endangered, or other special status species.

  Since there is an opportunity for some wells in the planning area to be directional and (or) horizontal, the BLM considered an alternative mandating the directional and/or horizontal drilling of oil and gas wells in the planning area. This alternative was eliminated from further consideration and detailed analysis for the following reasons:

  - For many wells, there will not be a potential conflict with proposed surface uses mandating the use of these more expensive and riskier types of directional and (or) horizontal wells.

- The risk of losing the borehole due to technical drilling difficulties is higher for directional and (or) horizontal wells than for vertical wells. Because of these factors, it is generally preferable not to drill these types of wells unless concerns such as those listed above make this option necessary.
- Drilling and completion costs for directional and (or) horizontal boreholes are higher than for conventional vertical boreholes and can significantly reduce a wells economic viability. Eustes (2003) identified these additional costs. The potential for increased productivity can offset the additional drilling costs and risks, making these types of boreholes the preferable drilling option. The advantages and disadvantages of requiring directional and (or) horizontal boreholes would need to be assessed on a well-by-well basis.
- Some of the oil and gas reservoirs now being developed in the planning area are multiple, vertically stacked, and discontinuous sandstones. These reservoirs are not good candidates for horizontal completion practices. A mandate requiring horizontal drilling would make many of these wells uneconomical to drill.
- In addition, directional and (or) horizontal drilling technology requires precise control of target locations in three dimensions. In exploratory areas, this information is usually not available. A requirement to drill directional and (or) horizontal wells under these conditions would result in additional drilling costs, the loss of some wellbores, and more uneconomical wells drilled.

Experience and improved efficiency have caused the additional costs attributed to directional drilling and (or) horizontal drilling to increase. However, exclusive use of directional and (or) horizontal drilling is not always necessary or not always logical when weighing risks versus rewards, and could result in wells not being drilled and reserves not being recovered. This does not meet either the Nation's energy needs or result in the maximum ultimate recovery of the oil and gas resources with minimum waste as required by 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3161.2.

- *Prohibit surface water disposal of coalbed natural gas (CBNG) wastewater.* The BLM considered this alternative to respond to issues about potential impacts to aquifers, soils, and the quantity and quality of surface water in and downstream of disposal of CBNG-produced water. Under this alternative, all produced water would be captured and re-injected into an underground stratum. The feasibility of an all-re-injection alternative is limited. The BLM could not require industry to implement this alternative since discharge of produced water is under the jurisdiction of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Wyoming State Engineer's Office and (or) the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. In addition, much of the planning area involves nonfederal minerals and nonpublic surface over which the BLM has no jurisdiction. An all-re-injection alternative also would limit the use of CBNG-produced water for beneficial purposes. BLM Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. WY-2005-14 addresses water disposal and land application disposal in the Powder River Basin (BLM 2005f).

- *Survey for, identify, and protect lands of wilderness quality*. The Wyoming wilderness review, directed by Section 603 of the FLPMA, began in the fall 1978. The review was divided into three phases: inventory, study, and reporting. Through field inventory, review of available information, and consultation with industry, state government, conservation groups, individual citizens, and private organizations, 40 wilderness study areas (WSAs) were identified for study. The inventory was completed in May 1981. None of the 40 identified WSAs in Wyoming were located in the planning area, so the wilderness review concluded with the inventory process.

  During scoping for the RMP revision, one proposal was received to survey for, identify, and protect lands containing wilderness qualities. This proposal included, but was not limited to, the South Fork of the Powder River roadless area northeast of Notches Dome as identified in *Wild*

Wyoming (Molvar 2001). As a result of this proposal, the BLM reviewed its current policy and guidance on wilderness inventory, identification, management, and protection of lands with wilderness characteristics and found, while a new WSA designation on BLM-administered public lands is no longer a valid management option, FLPMA land use plan decisions may afford special management protection for special values such as naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation, or other values through the land use planning process. After careful consideration of this alternative, it was eliminated from further consideration and detailed analysis. This decision was revisited three times during the planning process. The three approaches BLM used to make, and ultimately confirm, this decision are outlined below:

Approach 1: BLM evaluates the public lands on an on-going basis for resource values, including wilderness characteristics, as a part of managing the public lands. During the land use planning process, BLM conducted an analysis of the management situation, including consideration of wilderness characteristics. Using existing resource information, BLM evaluated all public lands in the planning area, including the proposal for the South Fork of the Powder River roadless area northeast of Notches Dome, to determine those features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness (naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and (or) unconfined recreation). Specifically, BLM identified areas containing little or no man-made physical intrusions and (or) unique resource values. The evaluation determined however, that these areas did not meet the criterion of naturalness, nor did they contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Since these areas lack these criteria, they do not warrant management for wilderness characteristics.

Approach 2: In addition to this proposal, BLM also received an ACEC nomination during public scoping for the South Fork of the Powder River. The ACEC nomination included the roadless area northeast of Notches Dome. The nomination was dropped from further consideration because it did not meet the relevance and importance criteria required for ACEC designation.

Approach 3: After the first two proposals were evaluated and the public notified of BLM's conclusion in the Draft RMP and EIS, a citizen's group submitted its own wilderness proposal. The citizens' wilderness proposal provided new information on wilderness characteristics within a portion of the South Fork of the Powder River drainage. Since this information was not available at the time of our initial evaluation of wilderness characteristics, BLM reviewed this new information. Based on compiled existing resource information and a field review, BLM determined that the South Fork of the Powder citizens' wilderness proposal does not have wilderness characteristics, and no additional protection beyond those already proposed for the area is warranted.

Alternatives or components identified as existing requirements under current laws, regulations, or standard operating procedures and policies, were not carried forward for detailed analysis: For example,

- **Cultural Resource Inventories.** Cultural resource inventories are conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Inventories would be required by federal regulation or leasing stipulations in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and would continue to be incorporated.
- **Wildlife and Special Status Species Surveys and Conservation Measures.** Surveys and conservation measures currently required for wildlife and special status species in accordance with leasing stipulations, biological opinions, or regulations would continue under all alternatives. New survey or conservation measure requirements would be determined during subsequent site-specific actions, and, as appropriate, consultation.

2.4 Alternatives Considered In Detail

This section summarizes the five alternatives (A through E) considered in the EIS in detail. A description of the alternatives considered requires (1) a narrative to describe *what* decisions each alternative will establish and (2) maps to show *where* each decision will occur. With 70 maps and multiple special designations, resource uses, and management actions for more than 30 individual resources and resource uses, an exhaustive narrative description of each alternative would result in a lengthy and potentially confusing chapter. To reduce the length and avoid confusion, only select meaningful differences (those with the most potential to affect resources) among alternatives are summarized in this section.

Combined with the appendices and maps from Volume 2, Table 2-1 and Table 2-2 highlight the meaningful differences among alternatives relative to what they establish and where they occur. Following these tables, a narrative description of each alternative is provided under the following headings:

- Overview of the Alternative
- Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources
- Resource Uses and Support
- Special Designations

To reduce the length and avoid confusion, only select meaningful differences (those with the most potential to affect resources) among alternatives are summarized in this section.

Other than *Overview of the Alternative*, the above headings reflect categories through which program-specific guidance for land use planning decisions must be applied (BLM 2005a). Table 2-1 summarizes meaningful differences (typically relative to acres) among alternatives for the first two categories: Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources and Resource Uses and Support. Table 2-2 summarizes meaningful differences among alternatives for Special Designations and Other MAs. These areas are managed under separate prescriptions compared to the rest of the planning area. Viewed in conjunction with the narrative for each alternative, Tables 2-1 and 2-2 highlight *what* meaningful decisions each alternative will establish. A complete description of all decisions proposed for each alternative, as well as a description of goals and objectives are included in Table 2-3 located in Section 2.5.

As discussed, goals and objectives (desired outcomes) are a category of land use planning decisions; however, they are not described in the alternative narrative because they do not differ among alternatives. Instead, the Details of Alternatives section describes the goals and objectives for each of eight resource topics (e.g., physical, mineral, biological, etc.). Because allowable uses and management actions differ among alternatives, they are described in the Details of Alternatives section for each alternative under the eight resource topics. The Details of Alternatives section in this chapter and the maps in Volume 2 provide details of each alternative.

Decisions made by this RMP revision are anticipated to be subsequently implemented. Restrictions on resource uses (e.g., administratively unavailable for leasing) apply to the life of the RMP unless changed through an RMP amendment and public involvement. The timing and degree of implementation will depend on available budget, staffing, and agency priorities. Actions taken or authorized by the BLM during RMP implementation would comply with standard practices, best management practices and guidelines for surface-disturbing activities (Appendices I and K). Therefore, these practices and guidelines are considered part of each alternative.

Due to the general strategic nature of alternatives for an RMP revision, the need for additional mitigation is not identified in this document. During the implementation stage, additional environmental analyses will be conducted, as appropriate, for site-specific actions. The BLM will determine on a case-by-case basis what, if any, mitigation is required.

Table 2-1. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions for Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources and Resource Uses and Support by Alternative in the Casper Planning Area
(All numbers in this table represent acreage unless otherwise noted.)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*
Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources						
Restrictions on Areas of Highly Erosive Soils	BLM-Administered Surface	CBC	256,240 (NSO)	256,240 (CSU)	No Restrictions	256,240 (CSU)
Use of Pitless Drilling Technology	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	CBC	Required	Required if impact to surface or groundwater or soils	CBC	Required if impact to surface or groundwater or soils
Acres Closed to Disposal of Mineral Materials	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	51,924	737,118	304,620	42,786	257,017
Acres Open to Oil and Gas and Other Leasables with Standard Stipulations	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	1,136,855	446,019	1,012,656	1,524,375	1,080,935
Acres Open to Oil and Gas and other Leasables with Moderate Constraints	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	2,711,404	1,196,922	2,058,162	2,445,107	2,506,530
Acres Open to Oil and Gas and other Leasables with Major Constraints	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	770,991	2,296,267	1,113,078	662,664	843,139
Acres Administratively Unavailable for Oil and Gas and Other Leasables	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	37,922	717,964	473,276	25,026	226,568
Acres Acceptable for Further Consideration for Coal Leasing	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	59,694	0	0	59,694	59,694
Acres Unacceptable for Further Consideration for Coal Leasing	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	2,266	4,657,172	4,657,172	2,266	2,266
Acres Unevaluated for Coal Leasing	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	4,595,212	0	0	4,595,212	4,595,212
Habitat Fragmentation Blocks	Planning Area	0	660,498	279,305	0	192,545
	BLM-Administered Surface	0	413,552	177,035	0	131,879
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	0	580,007	238,724	0	168,386
Breeding Planning Area Greater Sage-Grouse Lek Protective Buffers	Planning Area	24,062	116,659	21,654	24,062	63,380
	BLM-Administered Surface	7,572	40,897	14,959	7,572	26,068
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	17,474	89,210	31,561	17,474	51,841

Table 2-1. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions for Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources and Resource Uses and Support by Alternative in the Casper Planning Area *(Continued)*
(All numbers in this table represent acreage unless otherwise noted.)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*
Breeding and Nesting Planning Area Greater Sage-Grouse Protective Buffers in Nesting Habitat	Planning Area	1,071,755	2,703,861	1,197,312	1,071,755	1,289,712
	BLM-Administered Surface	345,533	788,774	400,445	345,533	435,981
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	794,600	1,940,880	891,383	794,600	960,342
Breeding Bates Hole and Fish Creek Willow Creek Greater Sage-Grouse Lek Protective Buffers	Planning Area	5,693	45,011	21,654	5,693	45,011
	BLM-Administered Surface	2,327	20,823	9,714	2,327	20,823
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	4,703	39,070	18,790	4,703	39,070
Breeding and Nesting Bates Hole and Fish Creek Willow Creek Greater Sage-Grouse Protective Buffers Habitat	Planning Area	207,357	433,537	335,895	207,357	433,537
	BLM-Administered Surface	97,522	190,856	153,599	97,522	190,856
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	167,365	339,906	266,826	167,365	339,906
Acreage Managed for DPC[1] for Aspen	BLM-Administered Surface	0	2,822	1,411	706	2,822
Acreage Managed for DPC[1] for Sagebrush	BLM-Administered Surface	0	630,183	315,902	157,546	630,183
Acreage Managed for DPC[1] for Mountain Shrub	BLM-Administered Surface	0	46,779	23,390	11,695	46,779
Miles of Lotic Habitat Managed for DPC[2]	BLM-Administered Surface	0	350	175	88	350
Acreage of Lentic Habitat Managed for DPC [2]	BLM-Administered Surface	0	10,000	5,000	2,500	10,000
Acres of Existing (Alternative A) and Proposed Surface Water for Fish and Wildlife	BLM-Administered Surface	1,500	2,500	2,000	1,600	1,600
Stream Miles of Improved Floodplain Connectivity	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A	350	108	75	75

Table 2-1. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions for Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources and Resource Uses and Support by Alternative in the Casper Planning Area *(Continued)*
(All numbers in this table represent acreage unless otherwise noted.)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*
Acres of Salt Cedar Eradication	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A	1,700	1,275	850	Inventory and Develop a Plan
Acres Managed for Potential Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A	145,641	145,641	CBC	CBC
Restrictions on Surface Development On or Near Cultural Sites	BLM-Administered Surface	NSO on four sites (120 acres)	NSO on three sites and within 300-foot buffer	NSO on three sites and CSU within 300-foot buffer	NSO on four sites	NSO on three sites and CSU within 300-foot buffer
Visual Resource Management - Class II	BLM-Administered Surface	109,827	408,576	367,151	205,542	367,151
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	365,967	1,062,550	816,310	465,688	816,310
Visual Resource Management - Class III	BLM-Administered Surface	210,258	415,458	433,799	548,780	433,799
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	909,283	1,022,622	1,211,145	1,518,434	1,211,145
Visual Resource Management - Class IV	BLM-Administered Surface	953,543	537,543	560,627	607,255	560,627
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	3,200,074	2,572,000	2,629,717	2,673,050	2,629,717
Visual Resource Management - Class V	BLM-Administered Surface	2,074	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	6,881	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resource Uses and Support						
BLM Withdrawals	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	485,993	2,251,435	1,138,689	51,685	409,707
Other Federal Withdrawals	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	41,589	48,954	48,954	35,266	48,954
Wind-Energy Acres of Power Class 3, 4, and 5 within the Planning Area	BLM-Administered Surface	999,468	999,468	999,468	999,468	999,468
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 3, 4, and 5 Exclusion Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A[3]	817,977	517,831	178,013	331,630
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 3, 4, and 5 Avoidance Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A[3]	118,056	221,071	351,293	392,907

Table 2-1. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions for Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources and Resource Uses and Support by Alternative in the Casper Planning Area *(Continued)*
(All numbers in this table represent acreage unless otherwise noted.)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*
Wind-Energy Acres of Power Class 6 and 7 within the Planning Area	BLM-Administered Surface	146,129	146,129	146,129	146,129	146,129
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 6 and 7 Exclusion Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A[3]	89,356	43,919	3,593	31,948
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 6 and 7 Avoidance Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A[3]	29,768	55,216	71,468	65,099
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 3 – 7 Acres Open Without Use Limitations	BLM-Administered Surface	429,294	27,005	307,560	541,230	324,013
Acres Not Available for Livestock Grazing	BLM-Administered Surface	6,016	6,016	6,016	6,016	6,016
Number of SRMAs	BLM-Administered Surface	4	3	5	8	6
Acres Closed to OHV Use	BLM-Administered Surface	2,661	26,027	7,943	2,661	2,224
Acres Open to OHV Use	BLM-Administered Surface	187	242	285	285	285
Acres Limited to Existing Roads and Trails for OHV Use	BLM-Administered Surface	1,311,715	909,651	1,162,113	1,292,630	1,162,244
Acres Limited to Designated Roads and Trails for OHV Use	BLM-Administered Surface	47,014	425,657	191,236	66,001	196,824
Standard Disposal	BLM-Administered Surface	103,725	109,210	241,364	224,834	224,834
Restricted Disposal	BLM-Administered Surface	9,784	16,344	6,149	5,453	5,453
Retention	BLM-Administered Surface	1,248,068	1,236,083	1,114,064	1,131,290	1,131,290
ROW Exclusion Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	208,664	1,099,606	676,193	238,013	442,040

Table 2-1. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions for Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources and Resource Uses and Support by Alternative in the Casper Planning Area *(Continued)*
(All numbers in this table represent acreage unless otherwise noted.)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*
ROW Avoidance Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	723,619	167,379	311,758	489,922	539,799
Designated ROW Corridors	BLM-Administered Surface	94,584	110,873	94,584	0	116,327

[1] Alternative A manages toward DFC rather than DPC. Management toward DPC is assumed to exceed the requirements of managing toward DFC.

[2] Alternative A manages toward PFC rather than DPC. Management toward DPC is assumed to exceed the requirements of managing toward PFC.

[3] Alternative A: renewable-energy avoidance areas for all power classes = 723,619 acres
Alternative A: renewable-energy exclusion areas for all power classes = 208,664 acres

Note: Restrictions on resource uses (e.g., administratively unavailable for leasing) apply to the life of the RMP, but can be changed by amending the RMP.

BLM Bureau of Land Management
CBC case-by-case
CSU controlled surface use
DFC desired future condition
DPC desired plant community
N/A not applicable
NSO no surface occupancy
OHV off-highway vehicle
PFC proper functioning condition
RMP Resource Management Plan
ROW rights-of-way
SRMA Special Recreation Management Area

Table 2-2. Comparative Summary of Proposed Special Designations and Other Management Areas by Alternative for the Casper Planning Area

Name	Emphasis	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage
Jackson Canyon ACEC	Bald Eagles	Total Surface	ACEC	13,346	ACEC	14,308	ACEC	13,346	ACEC	13,346	ACEC	14,308
		BLM-Administered Surface		4,114		4,153		4,114		4,114		4,153
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		10,546		11,387		10,546		10,546		11,387
Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC	Hazards	Total Surface	ACEC	235,325	ACEC	235,325	ACEC	235,325	No SD	0	No SD	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		77,566		77,566		77,566		0		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		203,228		203,228		203,228		0		0
Alcova Fossil Area	Paleontological Values	Total Surface	No SD	0	ACEC	7,073	ACEC	5,963	MA	5,963	ACEC	5,963
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		5,981		5,282		5,282		5,282
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		6,913		5,805		5,805		5,805
Bates Hole	Greater Sage-Grouse; Watershed Values	Total Surface	No SD	0	MA	375,221	MA	375,221	No SD	0	MA	375,221
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		158,023		158,023		0		158,023
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		288,504		288,504		0		288,504
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Prairie Dogs	Total Surface	No SD	0	ACEC	22,937	ACEC	22,937	No SD	0	No SD	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		3,103		3,103		0		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		14,846		14,846		0		0

Table 2-2. Comparative Summary of Proposed Special Designations and Other Management Areas by Alternative for the Casper Planning Area *(Continued)*

Name	Emphasis	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage
Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property	Cultural Values	Total Surface	No SD	0	ACEC	21,742	MA	19,055	No SD	0	No SD	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		14,065		12,481		0		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		19,637		16,994		0		0
North Platte River	Recreation; Wildlife	Total Surface	No SD	0	ACEC	85,393	ACEC	33,258	No SD	0	No SD	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		3,488		2,387		0		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		15,286		7,840		0		0
Salt Creek	Oil and Gas	Total Surface	No SD	0	No SD	0	MA	23,911	MA	90,931	MA	23,911
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		0		19,325		35,616		19,325
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		0		22,228		79,420		22,228
Sand Hills	Sensitive Soils	Total Surface	No SD	0	MA	17,633	MA	17,633	No SD	0	MA	17,633
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		17,633		17,633		0		17,633
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		17,633		17,633		0		17,633
South Bighorns/ Red Wall	Recreation; Wildlife	Total Surface	No SD	0	ACEC	262,901	MA	369,325	No SD	0	MA	93,352
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		146,812		206,155		0		55,945
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		216,460		309,854		0		75,913

Table 2-2. Comparative Summary of Proposed Special Designations and Other Management Areas by Alternative for the Casper Planning Area *(Continued)*

Name	Emphasis	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E *(Proposed RMP)*	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage
Wind River Basin	Oil and Gas	Total Surface	No SD	0	No SD	0	MA	281,037	MA	539,911	MA	54,575
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		0		100,401		213,238		18,277
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		0		233,496		446,615		44,302

ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BLM Bureau of Land Management
SD Special Designation
MA Management Area

2.4.1 Alternative A (No Action Alternative)

2.4.1.1 Overview of the Alternative

Resources on lands administered by the BLM within the planning area are currently managed under the existing plan (BLM 1985a), as amended (including currently authorized activity plans [e.g., allotment management plans, habitat management plans]). Management under Alternative A continues to balance the use and development of planning area resources.

Management under Alternative A continues to balance the use and development of planning area resources.

2.4.1.2 Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources

Under Alternative A, previous coal-screening decisions for lands in the coal development potential area (CDPA) in Converse County continue. These decisions identified 2,266 acres unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, and 59,694 acres acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing within the CDPA. The remaining 4,595,212 acres are unevaluated for coal leasing. Relative to leasing for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals under this alternative, the smallest area (770,991 acres) is open with major constraints; most of the planning area is open with moderate (2,711,404 acres) constraints or with standard (1,136,855 acres) stipulations. Approximately 37,922 acres are administratively unavailable for leasing for the life of the plan.

Current management does not allow occupancy or other surface disturbance on slopes greater than 25 percent without written authorization by the authorized officer; however, no specific restrictions exist prohibiting surface occupancy or disturbing activities on highly erosive soils. For example, Alternative A does not restrict prescribed fire on highly erosive soils. Current management also evaluates the use of pitless technology for drilling oil and gas wells on a case-by-case basis.

Under Alternative A, no specific management action exists to avoid habitat fragmentation; however, Alternative A does include management actions protecting select species or their habitat.

Under Alternative A, no specific management action exists to avoid habitat fragmentation; however, Alternative A does include management actions protecting select species or their habitat. For example, Alternative A requires avoiding surface disturbance or occupancy within ¼ mile of occupied greater sage-grouse leks, conserving 7,572 acres of habitat on BLM-administered surface and 17,474 acres of habitat on BLM-administered mineral estate. In addition, the No Action Alternative requires avoiding surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within 2 miles of an occupied lek, or in identified greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat outside the 2-mile buffer. The 2-mile buffer restriction applies to 345,533 acres of BLM-administered surface and 794,600 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate.

Other land use decisions affecting biological resources under Alternative A include management of mountain shrub (46,779 acres), sagebrush (630,183 acres), lotic (350 miles), and lentic (10,000 acres) communities on a case-by-case basis for desired future condition (DFC). Under Alternative A, no specific management actions are identified for acres of development of water sources for fisheries and waterfowl or for improving floodplain connectivity within the planning area. Likewise, no specific management actions exist for managing acres for potential black-footed ferret reintroduction or eradication of invasive, nonnative plant species (INPS). These resources generally are managed on a case-by-case basis under the existing plan.

Visual resource values are managed according to five VRM classes under Alternative A (refer to the Glossary). No VRM Class I areas are in the planning area. VRM Class II includes 109,827 acres of

BLM-administered surface and 365,967 acres of federal mineral estate, where a higher standard for mitigation of visual impacts is required for development activities; VRM Class III includes 210,258 acres of BLM-administered surface and 909,283 acres of federal mineral estate; VRM Class IV includes 953,543 acres of BLM-administered surface and 3,200,074 acres of federal mineral estate; and VRM Class V includes 2,074 acres of BLM-administered surface and 6,881 acres of federal mineral estate.

2.4.1.3 Resource Uses and Support

The 78,935 acres of forests on BLM-administered surface are managed in 17 Forest Management Areas. Forest management focuses primarily on lodgepole and ponderosa pine; however, 2,822 acres of aspen are managed on a case-by-case basis for DFC. No acres of aspen or other habitat types in the planning area are managed for desired plant community (DPC) under Alternative A.

Livestock grazing is allowed on all but 6,016 acres of the planning area. Ten percent of the grazing allotments are evaluated annually to see if they achieve rangeland health standards with emphasis on high priority (Category I and M) allotments. Stock driveways (SDWs) are used to the fullest extent possible.

Under Alternative A, the BLM maintains four Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs): North Platte River (3,561 acres), Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Area (EEA) (1,419 acres), Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area (894 acres), and the Middle Fork Area (12,909 acres). The remainder of the planning area is managed as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA).

Travel Management Areas are not delineated in the planning area. Relative to all alternatives, the smallest area (2,661 acres) of BLM-administered surface is closed to OHV use under Alternative A. Conversely, the largest area (1,311,715 acres) of BLM-administered surface is limited to existing roads and trails for OHV use. The existing Poison Spider OHV Park (187 acres open to OHV use) continues "as is" under Alternative A. The recreation management matrices are included in Appendix O.

Current lands and realty program actions within the planning area identify 103,725 acres for disposal, 9,784 acres for restricted disposal, and 1,248,068 acres for retention (refer to the Glossary). Rights-of-way (ROW) exclusion and avoidance areas encompass 932,283 acres of BLM-administered surface. Designated ROW corridors encompass 94,584 acres of BLM-administered surface in Alternative A.

Under Alternative A, the BLM responds to proposals for renewable wind-energy development within the planning area on a case-by-case basis, without any limits related to power classes. Although interests in wind energy have recently increased, no wind farms currently exist in the planning area on BLM-administered surface. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development subject to avoidance limitations is 723,619 acres. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development without use limitation is 429,294 acres.

2.4.1.4 Special Designations and Other Management Areas

Currently, special designations in the planning area include Jackson Canyon ACEC (14,308 acres) for bald eagles, Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC (235,325 acres) for hazards, and National Back Country Byways for the South Bighorns/Red Wall and Seminoe/Alcova areas and the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHTs. These designations continue and no additional special designations or MA's are established under Alternative A.

2.4.2 Alternative B

Alternative B emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources with constraints on resource uses.

2.4.2.1 Overview of the Alternative

Alternative B emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources with constraints on resource uses. Relative to all alternatives, Alternative B conserves the most land area for physical, biological, and heritage resources; designates the highest number of ACECs (7); and is the most restrictive to OHV use and leasing for coal, oil and gas, and other solid leasable minerals.

2.4.2.2 Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources

Under Alternative B, 4,657,172 acres are identified as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing. Relative to leasing for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals, the largest area (2,296,267 acres) of any alternative is open with major constraints and the smallest area (446,019 acres) is open with standard stipulations under Alternative B. The area open to leasing with moderate constraints comprises 1,196,922 acres. Approximately 717,964 acres, the most of any alternative, are administratively unavailable for leasing for the life of the plan.

Alternative B prohibits surface disturbance on slopes greater than 25 percent, as well as on highly erosive soils (256,240 acres of BLM-administered surface). Alternative B also prohibits the use of prescribed fire on highly erosive soils. In addition, this alternative requires the use of pitless technology for drilling oil and gas wells.

For the purpose of avoiding further habitat fragmentation, 16 blocks of land (see Map 20) containing intact native vegetation and more than 50 percent public surface ownership are administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing, geophysical operations on public surface, mineral material disposal, and wind-energy development for the life of the plan. Within these 16 blocks, a withdrawal is recommended. The withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws. The blocks encompass an area of 660,498 acres of oil and gas development potential, of which 413,552 acres are BLM-administered surface and 580,007 acres are BLM-administered mineral estate.

Alternative B also includes management actions to conserve areas of contiguous habitat for select species. For example, Alternative B establishes a Management Area (MA) for the Bates Hole area and prohibits surface disturbance or occupancy (NSO) within 4 miles of occupied greater sage-grouse leks. Surface disturbance or occupancy (NSO) is also prohibited within 4 miles of occupied greater sage-grouse leks in areas outside the Bates Hole/Fish Creek Willow Creek area. Within the Bates Hole/Fish Creek Willow Creek area, 190,856 acres of BLM-administered surface and 339,906 acres of federal mineral estate are conserved.

Alternative B also includes management actions to conserve areas of contiguous habitat for select species.

Throughout the planning area, Alternative B also prohibits surface disturbance or occupancy (NSO) in suitable greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within 4 miles of an occupied lek. Moreover, surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in identified greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat outside the 4-mile buffer are restricted from March 15 to July 15 (timing limitation stipulation or TLS). The 4-mile buffer restriction conserves 788,774 and 1,940,880 acres of BLM-administered surface and federal mineral estate, respectively the most of any alternative. Alternative B manages the same communities and acreage as the existing plan (46,779 acres of mountain shrub; 630,183 acres of sagebrush; 350 miles of lotic; and 10,000 acres of lentic); however, with an emphasis on DPC rather than DFC. Relative to all alternatives, Alternative B constructs the most water sources for fisheries and waterfowl (1,000 acres) and improves 350 miles of floodplain connectivity

within the planning area. In addition, Alternative B manages 145,641 acres for potential black-footed ferret reintroduction and eradicates 1,700 acres of salt cedar.

Four VRM classes (refer to the Glossary) identified for Alternative B are based on a visual resource inventory completed in 2004. There are no VRM Class I areas under all alternatives. Under Alternative B, approximately 408,576 acres of BLM-administered surface and 1,062,550 acres of federal mineral estate are classified as Class II areas; 415,458 acres of BLM-administered surface and 1,022,622 acres of federal mineral estate are classified as Class III areas; and 537,543 acres of BLM-administered surface and 2,572,000 acres of federal mineral estate are classified as Class IV areas.

2.4.2.3 Resource Uses and Support

The 78,935 acres of forests on BLM-administered surface are to be inventoried and classified as commercial forestland or noncommercial woodland. Under Alternative B, watershed stability, wildlife habitat, and recreation are the primary resource considerations of forest management. Approximately 2,822 acres of aspen are managed for DPC under Alternative B.

Under Alternative B, livestock grazing is allowed on the large majority of the planning area. Those areas currently identified as not available for livestock grazing include approximately 6,016 acres. In addition, all grazing allotments are monitored annually and forage utilization limited to 40 percent of the current year's production. SDWs are retained and managed for their current use under Alternative B.

Under Alternative B, the BLM maintains the Muddy Mountain EEA and Middle Fork Area SRMAs, adds the Poison Spider OHV Park as an SRMA, and drops the Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation area as an SRMA. The remainder of the planning area is managed as an ERMA. The recreation management matrices are included in Appendix O.

Relative to all alternatives, the largest area (26,027 acres) of BLM-administered surface is closed to OHV use under Alternative B. Conversely, the smallest area (909,651 acres) of BLM-administered surface is limited to existing roads and trails for OHV use. The existing Poison Spider OHV Park (open to OHV use) is enlarged to 242 acres under Alternative B.

Under Alternative B, lands and realty program actions within the planning area include 109,210 acres for disposal, 16,344 acres for restricted disposal, and 1,236,083 acres for retention (refer to the Glossary). ROW exclusion and avoidance areas encompass 1,266,985 acres of BLM-administered surface. Designated ROW corridors encompass 110,873 acres of BLM-administered surface in Alternative B.

Under Alternative B, renewable wind-energy development is allowed in areas identified as having outstanding/superb potential (also known as power classes 6 and 7). Wind-energy development is not allowed under Alternative B in habitat fragmentation blocks. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development, but subject to avoidance limitations, is 29,768 acres. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development without use limitation is 27,005 acres, the smallest of any alternative.

2.4.2.4 Special Designations and Other Management Areas

The existing Jackson Canyon and Salt Creek Hazardous ACECs are retained and five additional (Alcova Fossil Area, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), North Platte River, and South Bighorns/Red Wall) ACECs are designated under Alternative B. In addition, two MAs are established under Alternative B: (1) Bates Hole for greater sage-grouse and watershed values, and (2) Sand Hills for sensitive soils. Also retained are the South Bighorns/Red Wall and Seminoe/Alcova National Back Country Byways and the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHT designations.

2.4.3 Alternative C

Alternative C provides physical, biological, and heritage resource conservation similar to current management, while allowing for more recreational experiences.

2.4.3.1 Overview of the Alternative

Alternative C provides physical, biological, and heritage resource conservation similar to current management, while allowing for more recreational experiences. Alternative C establishes the most MAs (6), including establishment of the most acreage for the proposed South Bighorns/Red Wall MA. Regarding the conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources and restrictions on mineral leasing, Alternative C falls generally between alternatives B and D.

2.4.3.2 Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources

As with Alternative B, 4,657,172 acres are identified as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing under Alternative C. Areas open to leasing for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals with major, moderate, and standard stipulations are 1,113,078 acres, 2,058,162 acres, and 1,012,656 acres, respectively, under Alternative C. Approximately 473,276 acres are administratively unavailable for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals leasing for the life of the plan under this alternative.

Alternative C prohibits surface disturbance on slopes greater than 25 percent on highly erosive soils and minimizes disturbance to highly erosive soils (256,240 acres of BLM-administered surface) by modifying proposed activities to avoid areas of highly erosive soils. Alternative C limits the season of use and intensity of prescribed fire on highly erosive soils. The use of pitless technology for oil and gas drilling operations is required when there is potential for adverse impacts to surface water, groundwater, or soils.

Under Alternative C, habitat fragmentation restrictions identified for Alternative B apply only to eight intact native vegetation blocks containing big game crucial winter range or greater sage-grouse leks or habitats. These restrictions encompass an area of 279,305 acres of low oil and gas development potential, of which 177,035 acres are BLM-administered surface and 238,724 acres are BLM-administered mineral estate.

Alternative C also includes management actions to conserve areas of contiguous habitats for select species. For example, Alternative C establishes the Bates Hole area as an MA for the greater sage-grouse with restrictions similar to those identified under Alternative B; however, the buffer areas protecting occupied greater sage-grouse leks are reduced from ¾ mile to ½ mile under Alternative C. The buffer areas protecting occupied greater sage-grouse leks in the remainder of the planning area are also reduced from ½ mile to ¼ mile. The NSO acreage protecting breeding habitats (leks) in Bates Hole/Fish Creek Willow Creek is 9,714 acres of BLM-administered surface and 39,070 acres of federal mineral estate.

Alternative C prohibits surface disturbance on slopes greater than 25 percent on highly erosive soils and minimizes disturbance to highly erosive soils (256,240 acres of BLM-administered surface) by modifying proposed activities to avoid areas of highly erosive soils.

Alternative C prohibits surface disturbance or occupancy (NSO) in suitable greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 miles of an occupied lek in the Bates Hole MA. Throughout the remainder of the planning area, surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 miles of an occupied lek are restricted from March 15 to July 15 (TLS). Within the Bates Hole MA, surface-disturbing and disruptive activities are restricted from March 15 to July 15 (TLS) for an additional 1 mile where greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats are identified. The 2-mile buffer restrictions amount to 400,445 and 891,383 acres, respectively, for BLM-administered surface and BLM-administered mineral estate.

Alternative C manages the same communities as the existing plan, but fewer acres are identified for management: mountain shrub (23,390 acres), sagebrush (315,902 acres), lotic (175 miles), and lentic (5,000 acres) communities (with an emphasis on DPC rather than DFC). Alternative C also constructs 500 acres of water sources for fisheries and waterfowl and improves 108 miles of floodplain connectivity within the planning area. In addition, Alternative C manages 145,641 acres for potential black-footed ferret reintroduction and eradicates 1,275 acres of salt cedar.

Compared to the existing plan, Alternative C proposes more acres for VRM Class II and Class III and less acres for VRM Class IV. The acreages are as follows: Class II – 367,151 acres of BLM-administered surface and 816,310 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate, Class III – 433,799 acres of BLM-administered surface and 1,211,145 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate, and Class IV – 560,627 acres of BLM-administered surface and 2,629,717 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate. Isolated 40-acre parcels contiguous to U.S. Forest Service (USFS) property are managed to meet USFS visual objectives for those areas.

2.4.3.3 Resource Uses and Support

The 78,935 acres of forests on BLM-administered surface are to be inventoried and classified as commercial forestland or noncommercial woodland. Under Alternative C, forests are managed to achieve a sustainable flow of wood products. Approximately 1,411 acres of aspen are managed for DPC under Alternative C.

Livestock grazing is allowed on the large majority of the planning area. Those areas identified as not available for livestock grazing include approximately 6,016 acres under Alternative C. Livestock grazing is managed to maintain a protective cover of vegetation and litter with emphasis on the condition of high priority (Category I and M) allotments with significant acreages of highly erosive soils. SDWs no longer active are revoked and animal unit months incorporated into adjacent allotments.

Under Alternative C, the BLM maintains three of the SRMAs identified in Alternative A. Recreation management for the North Platte River is included in the proposed ACEC management under Special Designations. Two SRMAs for the Poison Spider OHV Park and National Historic Trails are added under this alternative. For BLM-administered surface in the planning area, approximately 7,943 acres are closed to OHV use and 1,162,113 acres are limited to existing roads and trails for OHV use. The existing Poison Spider OHV Park (open to OHV use) is enlarged to 285 acres under Alternative C. The recreation management matrices are included in Appendix O.

Under Alternative C, lands and realty program actions within the planning area include 241,364 acres for standard disposal, 6,149 acres for restricted disposal, and 1,114,064 acres for retention (refer to the Glossary). ROW exclusion and avoidance areas encompass 987,951 acres of BLM-administered surface. Designated ROW corridors encompass 94,584 acres of BLM-administered surface in Alternative C.

Under Alternative C, renewable wind-energy development is allowed in areas identified as having outstanding/superb (power classes 6 and 7) or fair/good/excellent (power classes 3, 4, and 5) potential. Wind-energy development is restricted in habitat fragmentation blocks under Alternative C. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development subject to avoidance limitations is 276,287 acres. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development without use limitation is 307,560 acres.

2.4.3.4 Special Designations and Other Management Areas

The existing Jackson Canyon and Salt Creek Hazardous ACECs are retained and three additional ACECs (Alcova Fossil Area, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, and North Platte River) are designated under Alternative

C. Six MAs (the most of any alternative) are established under Alternative C: (1) Bates Hole for greater sage-grouse and watershed values, (2) Cedar Ridge TCP for cultural values, (3) Salt Creek for oil and gas, (4) Sand Hills for sensitive soils, (5) South Bighorns/Red Wall for recreation and wildlife, and (6) Wind River Basin for oil and gas. The existing plan National Back Country Byways and National Historic Trails designations continue under Alternative C.

Alternative D emphasizes resource uses (e.g., energy and mineral development, recreation, and forest products).

2.4.4 Alternative D

2.4.4.1 Overview of the Alternative

Alternative D emphasizes resource uses (e.g., energy and mineral development, recreation, and forest products). Relative to all alternatives, Alternative D conserves the least land area for physical, biological, and heritage resources; designates the lowest number of ACECs (1); and is the least restrictive to OHV use and leasing for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals.

2.4.4.2 Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources

Under Alternative D, approximately 2,266 acres are identified as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing and 59,694 acres are identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing. The remaining 4,595,212 acres are unevaluated for coal leasing. Areas open to leasing for oil and gas and other leasable minerals with major, moderate, and standard stipulations are 662,664 acres, 2,445,107 acres, and 1,524,375 acres, respectively, under Alternative D. Approximately 25,026 acres are administratively unavailable for oil and gas and other solid leasable mineral leasing for the life of the plan under Alternative D, the least of any alternative.

Alternative D does not restrict surface-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 25 percent and allows surface-disturbing activities on highly erosive soils (256,240 acres of BLM-administered surface). Alternative D also allows prescribed fire on highly erosive soils. As under Alternative C, the use of pitless technology for oil and gas drilling operations is required when there is potential for adverse impacts to surface water, groundwater, or soils. Under Alternative D, habitat fragmentation restrictions identified for other alternatives do not apply.

Management actions to conserve areas of habitat for the greater sage-grouse are included in Alternative D. For example, although Alternative D does not establish Bates Hole as a MA, the same restrictions on surface disturbance or occupancy within ¼ mile of occupied greater sage-grouse leks as described for Alternative A apply. These restrictions protect breeding habitats comprising 7,572 acres of BLM-administered surface and 17,474 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate in the planning area. In addition, similar to current management, Alternative D requires avoiding surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 miles of an occupied lek, or in identified greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats outside the 2-mile buffer. The 2-mile buffer restrictions amount to 345,533 and 794,600 acres, respectively, for BLM-administered surface and BLM-administered mineral estate.

Under Alternative D, forest stands are managed to achieve maximum wood growth and flow of forest products.

Alternative D manages the same communities for DPC as other alternatives, but on the smallest acreage of mountain shrub (11,695 acres), sagebrush (157,546 acres), lotic (88 miles), and lentic (2,500 acres) communities. Alternative D also constructs 100 acres of water sources for fisheries and waterfowl and improves 75 miles of floodplain connectivity within the planning area. Alternative D eradicates 850 acres of salt cedar. Alternative D does not identify specific acres to manage for potential black-footed ferret reintroduction.

Alternative D proposes fewer acres of VRM Class II areas than alternatives B and C, but more than Alternative A. Similarly, a larger portion of total surface acreage is in Classes III and IV. The acreages are as follows: Class II – 205,542 acres of BLM-administered surface and 465,688 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate, Class III – 548,780 acres of BLM-administered surface and 1,518,434 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate, and Class IV – 607,255 acres of BLM-administered surface and 2,673,050 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate.

2.4.4.3 Resource Uses and Support

The 78,935 acres of forests on BLM-administered surface are to be inventoried and classified as commercial forestland or noncommercial woodland. Under Alternative D, forest stands are managed to achieve maximum wood growth and flow of forest products. Approximately 706 acres of aspen are managed for DPC under Alternative D.

Current management of livestock grazing continues with emphasis on high priority (Category I and M) allotments and no additional restrictions. All SDW withdrawals are revoked and trail use discontinued under Alternative D.

Under Alternative D, the BLM maintains the four SRMAs from Alternative A and adds four additional SRMAs: Poison Spider OHV Park, South Bighorns/Red Wall and Seminoe/Alcova National Back Country Byways, and the National Historic Trails. For BLM-administered surface in the planning area, approximately 2,661 acres are closed to OHV use and 1,292,630 are limited to existing roads and trails for OHV use. The existing Poison Spider OHV Park (open to OHV use) is enlarged to 285 acres under Alternative D and an additional OHV park could be identified. The recreation management matrices are included in Appendix O.

Under Alternative D, lands and realty program actions within the planning include 224,834 acres for disposal, 5,453 acres for restricted disposal, and 1,131,290 acres for retention (refer to the Glossary). ROW exclusion and avoidance areas encompass 727,935 acres of BLM-administered surface. No designated ROW corridors are included in Alternative D.

Under Alternative D, renewable wind-energy development is allowed in areas with power class ratings of fair/good/excellent or higher (1,145,597 acres). Areas identified as having potential for renewable energy development are actively marketed under Alternative D. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development subject to avoidance limitations is 422,761 acres. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development without use limitation is 541,230 acres.

2.4.4.4 Special Designations and Other Management Areas

The existing Jackson Canyon ACEC is retained and no new areas are designated as ACECs under Alternative D. The existing Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC is not retained under Alternative D. Three MAs are established under Alternative D: (1) Alcova Fossil Area for paleontological values, (2) Salt Creek for oil and gas, and (3) Wind River Basin for oil and gas. The existing plan National Back Country Byways and National Historic Trails designations continue under Alternative D.

2.4.5 Alternative E (Proposed Casper RMP)

2.4.5.1 Overview of the Alternative

Alternative E increases conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources compared to current management, including restrictions against habitat fragmentation and designation of five new MAs. Alternative E also emphasizes moderate constraints on leasing for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals.

Alternative E increases conservation of physical, biological, and heritage resources compared to current management.

2.4.5.2 Physical, Biological, and Heritage Resources

As under Alternative D, approximately 2,266 acres are identified as unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing and 59,694 acres are identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing under Alternative E. The remaining 4,595,212 acres are unevaluated for coal leasing. Areas open to leasing for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals with major, moderate, and standard stipulations are 843,139 acres, 2,506,530 acres, and 1,080,935 acres, respectively, under Alternative E. Approximately 226,568 acres are administratively unavailable for oil and gas and other solid leasable minerals leasing for the life of the plan under Alternative E.

Alternative E does not allow occupancy or other surface disturbance on slopes greater than 25 percent without written authorization from the authorized officer and minimizes disturbance to highly erosive soils (256,240 acres of BLM-administered surface) by modifying proposed activities to avoid areas of highly erosive soils. Alternative E limits the season of use and intensity of prescribed fire on highly erosive soils. Similar to alternatives C and D, the use of pitless technology for oil and gas drilling operations is required when there is potential for adverse impacts to surface water, groundwater, or soils.

Habitat fragmentation restrictions for Alternative E are the same as described for Alternative C, except the boundaries of five intact blocks are adjusted and all allowed surface-disturbing activities within the adjusted blocks are subject to a controlled surface use (CSU) stipulation, minimizing surface disturbance to meet management objectives.

The Bates Hole and Fish Creek Willow Creek areas under Alternative E have a ¾-mile CSU buffer for occupied greater sage-grouse leks (20,823 acres of BLM-administered surface and 39,070 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate) to protect breeding habitats. Occupied greater sage-grouse leks also have a 4-mile timing restriction buffer (190,856 acres of BLM-administered surface and 339,906 acres of BLM-administered mineral estate) where surface development or wildlife-disturbing activities are restricted from March 15 through July 15 (TLS). Surface disturbance is required to avoid (year-round) sagebrush stands (of greater than 10 percent canopy cover).

Alternative E manages the same communities for DPC as Alternative B, including mountain shrub (46,779 acres), sagebrush (630,183 acres), lotic (350 miles), and lentic (10,000 acres) communities. Alternative E also constructs 100 acres of water sources for fish and waterfowl and improves 75 miles of floodplain connectivity within the planning area. Alternative E does not identify specific acreage to manage for potential black-footed ferret reintroduction or to eradicate salt cedar; however, under Alternative E, salt cedar is to be inventoried and a plan developed for eradicating this INPS over the life of the plan. Alternative E proposes the same acreage as Alternative C for VRM Classes II, III, and IV.

2.4.5.3 Resource Uses and Support

The 78,935 acres of forests on BLM-administered surface are to be inventoried and classified as commercial forestland or noncommercial woodland. Under Alternative E, forests are managed to achieve a sustainable flow of wood products with forestlands as the primary resource, while also managing for

multiple uses (i.e., watershed health and stability, wildlife, recreation, livestock grazing, etc.). Approximately 2,822 acres of aspen are managed for DPC under Alternative E.

Livestock grazing is allowed on the large majority of the planning area and is managed as described in Alternative C. For SDWs, Alternative E requires review and recommendation for revocation of withdrawals for trails that are no longer active and incorporates these lands into adjacent allotments.

Under Alternative E, the BLM maintains the four SRMAs described in Alternative A and adds two SRMAs, the Poison Spider OHV Park and National Historic Trails. The remainder of the planning area is managed as an ERMA. For BLM-administered surface land in the planning area, approximately 2,224 acres are closed to OHV use; and 1,162,244 acres are limited to existing roads and trails for OHV use. The existing Poison Spider OHV Park (open to OHV use) is enlarged to 285 acres under Alternative E. The recreation management matrices are included in Appendix O.

Under Alternative E, renewable wind-energy development is allowed in areas identified as having outstanding/superb (power classes 6 and 7) or fair/good/excellent (power classes 3, 4, and 5) potential.

Under Alternative E, lands and realty program actions within the planning area include 224,834 acres for standard disposal, 5,453 acres for restricted disposal, and 1,131,290 acres for retention (refer to the Glossary). ROW exclusion and avoidance areas encompass 981,839 acres of BLM-administered surface. Designated ROW corridors encompass 116,327 acres of BLM-administered surface.

Under Alternative E, renewable wind-energy development is allowed in areas identified as having outstanding/superb (power classes 6 and 7) or fair/good/excellent (power classes 3, 4, and 5) potential. Wind-energy development is restricted in habitat fragmentation blocks. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development subject to avoidance limitations is 458,006 acres. The area of BLM-administered surface open to renewable wind-energy development without use limitation is 324,013 acres.

2.4.5.4 Special Designations and Other Management Areas

The existing Jackson Canyon ACEC is retained and the Alcova Fossil Area ACEC is designated under Alternative E. The existing Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC is not retained under Alternative E. Five MAs are established under Alternative E: (1) Bates Hole for greater sage-grouse and watershed values, (2) Salt Creek for oil and gas, (3) Sand Hills for sensitive soils, (4) South Bighorns/Red Wall for recreation and wildlife, and (5) Wind River Basin for oil and gas. The National Back Country Byways and National Historic Trails designations continue under Alternative E.

2.5 Details of Alternatives

Table 2-3 identifies goals and objectives, management actions common to all alternatives, and management actions by alternative. These are arranged according to the following resource topics:

Number	Resource Topic
1000	Physical Resources (PR)
2000	Mineral Resources (MR)
3000	Fire Management and Ecology (FM)
4000	Biological Resources (BR)
5000	Heritage and Visual Resources (HR)
6000	Land Resources (LR)
7000	Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD)
8000	Socioeconomic Resources (SR)

The above numbering system and abbreviations for each of the eight resource topics appear as headings and serve to organize this table. Following the headings are the applicable goals and objectives for each resource topic. These goals and objectives apply to all five alternatives under consideration for the entire planning area and would apply for the life of the RMP.

Management actions are anticipated to achieve the goals and objectives identified for each resource topic. Some management actions are constant across all alternatives, whereas others vary by alternative. Management actions that apply to all alternatives are listed for each resource topic under the heading *Management Actions Common to All Alternatives* immediately following the goals and objectives for each resource topic. Management actions that vary by alternative are listed under the heading *Management Actions by Alternative.* If the action is general in nature, it is listed under the resource topic heading (e.g., physical resources, biological resources, etc.). If the action is more specific, it is listed under the individual resource (e.g., wildlife) or in some cases, the resource subcategory (e.g., big game).

The following apply under all alternatives:

- *Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities* (Appendix I)
- *Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Wyoming* (BLM 1998b)
- Best Management Practices (Appendix K)

Restrictions on resource uses apply to the life of the RMP, but can be changed by amending the RMP. For example, areas identified as administratively unavailable for leasing refer to minerals deferred from leasing for the life of the RMP unless changed through an RMP amendment and public involvement. Moreover, where seasonal or other restrictions or limitations are placed on development, exception, waiver, or modification of these limitations may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the authorized officer. This applies to all restrictions and limitations.

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Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Goals and Objectives

GOAL PR:1 Minimize the impact of management actions in the planning area on air quality by complying with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and regulations.

OBJECTIVES -

PR:1.1 Comply with applicable state and federal AAQS for criteria pollutant concentration levels associated with management actions.

PR:1.2 Maintain concentrations of PSD pollutants associated with management actions in compliance with the applicable increment.

GOAL PR:2 Implement management actions within the scope of the BLM's land-management responsibilities to improve air quality as practicable.

OBJECTIVES -

PR:2.1 Reduce visibility-impairing pollutants in accordance with the reasonable progress goals and timeframes established within the State of Wyoming's Regional Haze SIP.

PR:2.2 Reduce atmospheric deposition levels below generally accepted LOC and LAC.

GOAL PR:3 Manage geologic hazards and unique geologic features on BLM-administered lands.

OBJECTIVES -

PR:3.1 Reduce potential risks associated with known geologic hazards.

PR:3.2 Maintain unique geologic features within the planning area for visual, scientific, historical, recreational, and topographic values.

GOAL PR:4 Maintain or improve soil health (e.g., chemical, physical, and biotic properties) and prevent or minimize soil erosion and compaction.

OBJECTIVES -

PR:4.1 Identify, develop, and interpret soil information to prevent or limit soil loss and to identify potential pollutant source areas.

PR:4.2 Participate in a Wyoming BLM effort in coordination with the State of Wyoming to establish guidelines in a handbook to evaluate BMPs for highly erosive soils in arid lands.

PR:4.3 Monitor and evaluate reclamation in disturbed areas and modify BMPs as needed to achieve successful reclamation.

GOAL PR:5 Maintain or improve surface water and groundwater resources consistent with applicable state and federal standards and regulations.

OBJECTIVES -

PR:5.1 Maintain watershed, wetland, and riparian functions to support surface-flow regimes and water quality.

PR:5.2 Minimize or control contributions of nonpoint source pollution from public lands to receiving water bodies, with particular attention being paid to special management waters (i.e., WQLS) established by the State of Wyoming.

PR:5.3 Improve control of sources of pollutants on federal lands that may threaten drinking-water sources.

PR:5.4 Develop, implement, and monitor restoration plans for impaired water bodies through participation with other interested stakeholders.

GOAL PR:6 Provide for physical and legal availability of water to facilitate authorized uses on public lands and to protect and provide conservation of those waters.

OBJECTIVES -

PR:6.1 Develop new water-supply sources (e.g., wells, springs, reservoirs, stream and lake access) for BLM-authorized actions (e.g., grazing, wildlife, recreation, etc.) with minimum impact to the water source as a priority.

PR:6.2 Improve opportunities for water conservation. Apply water conservation measures to all developments, where practical.

PR:6.3 Design and construct all new reservoir projects considering watershed condition, reservoir retirement, and ultimate reservoir failure.

PR:6.4 Develop and implement a procedure for conversion of abandoned oil and gas wells to livestock and wildlife water supply use.

PR:6.5 Rehabilitate nonfunctional reservoirs.

GOAL PR:7 Bring all watersheds to their full potential conditions.

OBJECTIVES -

PR:7.1 Develop water resources to improve watershed conditions.

PR:7.2 Improve protection for surface water and groundwater sources.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
1001	PR:1 PR:2	Work cooperatively to develop an Air Quality Assessment Protocol to estimate potential future air quality.				
1002	PR:1	Manage prescribed burns to comply with Wyoming DEQ AQD smoke-management rules and regulations.				
1003	PR:1	Establish within 1 year of approval of the RMP ROD, an air quality strategy to define the background air quality associated with federal actions approved under this RMP.				
1004	PR:1	Create and maintain within 1 year of establishing the air quality strategy, a monitoring system to establish the air quality change over time related to federal actions.				
1005	PR:1 PR:2	Work cooperatively to encourage industry and other permittees to adopt measures to reduce emissions.				
1006	PR:1 PR:2	Work cooperatively to estimate potential impacts from potential emission reduction.				
1007	PR:1 PR:2	Ensure that the level of air quality analysis is proportional to the availability of emissions information and public concern for air quality.				
1008	PR:1 PR:2	Perform dispersion-modeling analyses to determine the potential impacts of proposed air emission mitigations.				
1009	PR:3.1	Restrict development in hazardous areas such as fault zones and slide areas; evaluate development on a case-by-case basis.				
1010	PR:3.1	Abide by the requirements of Onshore Oil and Gas Order #6, H_2S Operations, in areas containing H_2S.				
1011	PR:6.1 PR:6.3 PR:6.5 PR:6.1 PR:7.2	Provide, where authorized uses are fenced out of water sources, an alternative or "off-source" water supply (e.g., piping water to troughs, tanks, or ponds).				
1012	PR:1 PR:2	The FLPMA and the Clean Air Act prohibit the BLM from conducting, supporting, approving, licensing, or permitting any activity under its jurisdiction that does not comply with all applicable local, state, tribal, and federal air quality laws, statutes, regulations, and implementation plans.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Air Quality

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
1013	PR:1 PR:2	Maintain existing and ambient air quality and AQRV monitoring.	Enhance existing criteria pollutant and AQRV monitoring. Locations of AQRV monitors will be determined through a cooperative process. Suggest Wyoming DEQ AQD consider adding new-criteria pollutant monitors.	Enhance existing criteria pollutant and AQRV monitoring on a project-specific or as-needed basis. Locations of AQRV monitors will be determined through a cooperative process. Suggest Wyoming DEQ AQD consider adding new criteria pollutant monitors.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
1014	PR:1 PR:2	Cooperative process that shares information on proposed emission sources and air quality issues to the public and government agencies, such as the Wyoming DEQ AQD, EPA, USFS, and NPS.	Enhance the existing cooperative process that shares air quality information to agencies, stakeholders, and the public.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
1015	PR:1 PR:2	Allow air quality impacts up to applicable standards and guidelines. A program has been developed that provides benefits to air quality and other resources by decreasing air pollutant concentrations, increasing visibility, and decreasing atmospheric depositions. The BLM works closely with the Wyoming DEQ AQD to ensure that the BLM's prescribed fire actions comply with applicable smoke-management regulations.	The BLM would consider implementing mitigations within its authority to reduce emissions from current levels in the planning area. The BLM would facilitate discussions with stakeholders to implement mitigations beyond the BLM's authority to reduce emissions from current levels in the planning area, such as: Consider a program to offset emissions proposed by the RMP. Reduce emissions from existing sources (by techniques such as more stringent Best Available Control Technologies).	The BLM would consider implementing mitigations within its authority to reduce emissions from current levels in the planning area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Geologic Resources

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
1016	PR:3.1 PR:3.2	No similar action.	Inventory, evaluate, and prioritize geologic features for degree of unique values. Develop management plans for unique geologic features based on prioritization.	On a case-by-case basis, BLM-administered lands within the planning area would be inventoried for unique geologic features, which would then be evaluated and prioritized for their unique value and a management plan would be developed.	No inventories, evaluations, or management plans will be developed for any potentially unique geologic features within the planning area.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Soil						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
1017	PR:4.1	Conduct detailed onsite soil investigations on highly controversial projects, or in areas of highly erosive soils, to evaluate the impacts of surface-disturbing activities. Onsite soil investigations may include mapping the soils to a series level, evaluating current erosion conditions, and prescribing mitigation and reclamation practices.	Conduct detailed onsite soil investigations on all surface-disturbing actions. Onsite soil investigations may include mapping the soils to a series level, evaluating current erosion conditions, and prescribing mitigation and reclamation practices.	Same as Alternative A.	Don't conduct detailed onsite soil investigations; rather, use existing soil survey information.	On BLM-administered surface, conduct onsite soil investigations on highly controversial projects, or in areas of highly erosive soils, to evaluate the impacts of surface-disturbing activities. Onsite soil investigations may include mapping the soils to a series level, evaluating current erosion conditions, and prescribing mitigation and reclamation practices.
1018	PR:4.1	Conduct an assessment of soil limitations using Soil Interpretation Rating Guides as defined in the National Soil Survey Handbook using available soil survey information. Assessments are conducted for highly controversial surface-disturbing activities, or in areas identified as having highly erosive soils. Assessments are conducted periodically at the discretion of the authorized officer, and are not applied to every authorized surface-disturbing activity.	Conduct field investigations for every surface-disturbing activity. Onsite soil investigations may include mapping the soils to a series level, collecting soil samples for physical and chemical analysis, and evaluating current erosion conditions specific to the site.	Conduct assessment of soil limitations analysis using automated soil survey or field investigations on any surface-disturbing activity causing more than 20 acres of disturbance per year. Surface-disturbing activities causing less than 20 acres of disturbance per year will be assessed as warranted.	No assessments of the soil limitations will be conducted.	Same as Alternative C.
1019	PR:4.3	The entire planning area is not routinely inventoried to determine the erosion condition of all soils on public lands. The authorized officer may conduct site-specific evaluations at his or her discretion on highly controversial projects or in areas identified as having highly erosive soils. Key areas may be evaluated as part of rangeland health evaluations to determine compliance with rangeland health standards.	Routinely inventory all public lands in the planning area to determine the rate of erosion and soil stability.	Inspect disturbed and reclaimed areas for signs of accelerated erosion on projects disturbing more than 20 acres per year. Surface-disturbing activities causing less than 20 acres of disturbance per year will be assessed as warranted.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
1020	PR:4.2	Every surface-disturbing action approved by the authorized officer in the planning area is evaluated to determine the need for BMPs to minimize the impacts of the action on soil resources. Site-specific conditions are developed and applied to each specific authorization on a case-by-case basis. Development and implementation of BMPs are project specific.	NSO on highly erosive soils (575,788 acres of BLM federal mineral estate of which 256,240 acres are BLM surface).	Minimize the disturbance to highly erosive soils (575,788 acres of BLM federal mineral estate of which 256,240 acres are BLM surface). Proposed surface-disturbing activities will be modified (located) to avoid areas of highly erosive soils to the greatest extent practicable.	Allow surface-disturbing activities on highly erosive soils (575,788 acres of BLM federal mineral estate of which 256,240 acres are BLM surface).	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Soil						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
1021	PR:4.2	The requirement to use temporary protective surface treatment on disturbed areas is applied on a case-by-case basis as project conditions warrant.	Require a temporary protective surface treatment on all disturbed areas not required for operations within 30 days of completion of construction. Surface treatments will vary depending on local site conditions and changes in erosion control technology, but may include mulch, matting, netting, or tackifiers.	Same as Alternative B.	Do not require the use of protective surface treatments for surface-disturbing activities.	Same as Alternative A.
1022	PR:4.2	NSO or other surface disturbance is allowed on slopes of more than 25 percent without permission from the authorized officer. When development is proposed on slopes of more than 25 percent, engineered drawings for construction, drainage design, and final contours proposed after rehabilitation will be required.	On BLM-administered surface, NSO on slopes greater than 25 percent.	On BLM-administered surface, NSO on slopes greater than 25 percent on highly erosive soils.	Do not restrict surface-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 25 percent.	Same as Alternative A.
1023	PR:4.2	No similar action.	Prohibit the use of prescribed fire on highly erosive soils.	Limit the use of prescribed fire on highly erosive soils to seasons and fire intensity that limit impacts.	Allow the use of prescribed fire on highly erosive soils.	Same as Alternative C.
1024	PR:4.3	Every surface-disturbing action approved by the authorized officer in the planning area is evaluated to determine the need for BMPs to minimize the impacts of the action on soil resources. Site-specific conditions are developed and applied to each specific authorization on a case-by-case basis. Development and implementation of BMPs is project-specific. There is no requirement to apply BMPs to all surface-disturbing activities in the planning area.	Complete reclamation activities (final contouring, replacing topsoil, reseeding, and surface treatment) on all disturbed areas within one growing season, or implement temporary measures until the next growing season.	Complete reclamation activities (final contouring, replacing topsoil, reseeding, and surface treatment) on all disturbed areas within three growing seasons.	Complete reclamation activities (final contouring, replacing topsoil, reseeding, and surface treatment) on all disturbed areas within five growing seasons.	Same as Alternative C.
1025	PR:4.3	Every surface-disturbing action approved by the authorized officer in the planning area is evaluated to determine the need for BMPs to minimize the impacts of the action on soil resources. Site-specific conditions are developed and applied to each specific authorization on a case-by-case basis. Seed mixtures comprising native species adapted to the site may be specified by the authorized officer.	Reseed all disturbed areas with a diverse mix of native species adapted to the site conditions, including grasses, forbs, and shrubs. All seed must be certified weed-free.	Re-seed all disturbed areas with native species adapted to the site conditions and capable of providing protective soil cover. All seed must be certified weed-free. Nonnative species may be used on a case-by-case basis when resource objectives will not be met through the use of native species and the nonnative plants have no invasive properties.	Reseed all disturbed areas. Nonnative species may be used on a case-by-case basis when resource objectives will not be met through the use of native species.	Same as Alternative C, except, when practical, reseeding of disturbed areas should include the use of locally harvested seed from comparable areas in Wyoming and surrounding states.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Soil						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
1026	PR:4.3	Every surface-disturbing action approved by the authorized officer in the planning area is evaluated to determine the need for BMPs to minimize the impacts of the action on soil resources. Site-specific conditions are developed and applied to each specific authorization on a case-by-case basis. Monitoring of reclamation success occurs as needed depending on the controversy of the action and available staff.	Re-treat all reclaimed areas that do not have at least 50 percent of predisturbance vegetative cover three growing seasons after final reclamation. Re-treating will vary by site and initial reclamation success, but may include invasive species control, reseeding the site with other native species or the same native species under more favorable environmental conditions. Re-treatment also may involve additions of fertilizers or soil amendments and protective cover, such as mulch, matting, or netting. Livestock grazing also may be limited until reclamation success has been established. Grazing controls will vary by site, but might include herding, fencing, deferred use, or supplemental feeding. Re-treat all reclaimed areas that do not have at least 80 percent of predisturbance vegetative cover five growing seasons after final reclamation.	Re-treat reclaimed areas that do not have at least 30 percent of predisturbance vegetative cover three growing seasons after final reclamation. Re-treating will vary by site and initial reclamation success, but may include invasive species control, reseeding the site with other native species or the same native species under more favorable environmental conditions. Re-treatment also may involve additions of fertilizers or soil amendments and protective cover, such as mulch, matting, or netting. Livestock grazing also may be limited until reclamation success has been established. Grazing controls will vary by site, but might include herding, fencing, deferred use, or supplemental feeding. Re-treat reclaimed areas that do not have at least 50 percent of predisturbance vegetative cover five growing seasons after final reclamation.	No requirements for followup reclamation work after final reclamation is complete.	Same as Alternative C.
1027	PR:4.2	On a case-by-case basis, every surface-disturbing action approved by the authorized officer in the planning area is evaluated to determine the need for BMPs to minimize the impacts of the action on soil resources. Site-specific conditions are developed and applied to each specific authorization on a case-by-case basis as well.	Require full topsoil salvage and segregation on all disturbed areas.	Allow limited or no topsoil salvage when alternative soil-handling methods may be appropriate. Some examples include salvage of topsoil on the pipeline trench only, instead of full ROW salvage, or scalping temporary work areas leaving the soil in place, followed by soil ripping when the work is completed.	Topsoil salvage and segregation will not be required.	Same as Alternative C.
1028	PR:4.2	Minimize the density of long-term surface disturbance in the planning area. Currently done on a case-by-case basis.	Limit total long-term surface disturbance from all BLM-authorized activities to no more than 80 acres per square mile. Applies to BLM surface only.	Same as Alternative B.	Place no acreage limits on total surface disturbance. Applies to BLM surface only.	Same as Alternative B.
1029	PR:4.2	Utilize all existing roads and trails regardless of the level of public demand.	Evaluate existing road and trail use in the planning area. Close and reclaim all roads and trails on BLM-administered surface that are not being utilized to meet public demand.	Evaluate existing road and trail use in the planning area. Close and reclaim all roads and trails on BLM-administered surface that are in areas designated as highly erosive soils and that are not being utilized to meet public demand.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
1030	PR:4.1	The requirement to measure cumulative annual short- and long-term disturbance is applied on a case-by-case basis as project conditions warrant.	Measure the cumulative annual short- and long-term disturbance occurring as a result of BLM-authorized actions within the planning area. The areas will be mapped annually using GPS techniques and compiled in a GIS format.	Measure the cumulative annual short- and long-term disturbance occurring as a result of BLM-authorized actions within the planning area for projects that will result in more than 20 acres of disturbance annually. The areas will be mapped annually using GPS techniques and compiled in a GIS format.	BLM will not track the cumulative acreage of disturbance resulting from authorized actions.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Water						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
1031	PR:5.1	Flow regimes currently are not managed or managed on a case-by-case basis.	On a field office level, control the number of on-channel reservoirs through project-level planning. This could involve removing existing structures or building new structures to achieve desired flow regime.	On perennial and intermittent streams, control the number of on-channel reservoirs through project-level planning. This could involve removing existing structures or building new structures to achieve desired flow regime.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
1032	PR:5.1 PR:5.2 PR:5.3 PR:6.1 PR:6.3 PR:6.5	Address water quality degradation through case-by-case mitigation developed at a project level.	Analyze all management activities to prevent degradation of existing water quality.	Same as Alternative B, except applied only to activities that could impact Class 1 or 2 waters (Class 1 and 2 - Wyoming DEQ water quality standard).	Same as Alternative B, except applied only to activities that could impact Class 1 waters (Class 1 waters – Wyoming DEQ water quality standard).	Same as Alternative C, except all other waters would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
1033	PR:5.2 PR:5.3 PR:6.1 PR:6.3 PR:7.1 PR:7.2	Require Storm Water Management Plans on all new BLM projects of more than 5 acres.	Require Storm Water Management Plans on all new BLM-controlled activities.	Require Storm Water Management Plans on all new BLM projects of more than 1 acre.	Same as Alternative C.	As determined by the authorized officer, Storm Water Management Plans would be required on all new BLM projects of more than 1 acre.
1034	PR:5.3 PR:6.1	On BLM-authorized drilling activities, evaluate on a case-by-case basis the need for requiring pitless technology.	On BLM-authorized drilling activities, require use of pitless drilling technology.	On BLM-authorized drilling activities, require use of pitless drilling technology where there is potential for adverse impact to surface water, groundwater, or soils.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
1035	PR:5.1 PR:5.2 PR:5.3 PR:7.2	SWA 2: Surface Water Protection For the protection of surface water, surface development will be prohibited (NSO) in the following areas: within ¼ mile of the North Platte River; within 500 feet of live streams, lakes, reservoirs, canals, and associated riparian habitat; and within 500 feet of water wells, springs, or artesian and flowing wells. The authorized officer may waive these restrictions, including the restriction on intermittent and ephemeral streams described below, in writing if potential impacts can be acceptably mitigated. While the ¼-mile limitation does not apply to recreation facilities, it is not waived on the Trapper's Route tracts. Surface development proposals that involve intermittent and ephemeral streams (as identified on USGS 7½ minute topographic maps) will be evaluated, and site-specific mitigation will be applied as necessary, or the development will be moved a sufficient distance to ensure natural drainage integrity. This restriction applies to intermittent streams and well-defined ephemeral streams where watershed conditions indicate that the potential exists for the stream to carry sufficient quantities of water to result in damage to surface facilities or to dike channels. This decision will be applied on a case-by-case basis. It will not apply to every topographic depression or every drainage that might conceivably carry runoff at some time; rather, it applies to drainages that have the potential to affect live streams.	NSO within 500 feet and CSU from 500 feet to ¼ mile of perennial streams, springs, riparian and wetland habitats, or water bodies (lakes, ponds). In the cases in which crossing these areas by linear facilities (pipelines, powerlines, roads, fences, etc.) is unavoidable, use best available technology and (or) BMPs to minimize impacts. Wildlife and livestock watering facilities and recreation facilities will be allowed when no other alternatives exist and only when they meet management objectives.	Same as Alternative B, except applied only on Class 1 waters – (Wyoming DEQ water quality standard) or Class 2 waters – (Wyoming DEQ water quality standard).	Same as Alternative B, except CSU within ¼ mile (no NSO).	Same as Alternative C, except waters not considered under Alternative C also would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Water						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
1036	PR:7.2	SWA 2 – Surface development will be prohibited within 500 feet of water wells, springs, or artesian and flowing wells.	NSO within 500 feet and CSU from 500 feet to ¼ mile of water wells, springs, or artesian and flowing wells.	CSU within ¼ mile of water wells, springs, or artesian and flowing wells.	CSU within 500 feet of water wells, springs, or artesian and flowing wells.	Same as Alternative D.
1037	PR:6.2	Evaluate on a case-by-case basis the need for flow-control devices on BLM-authorized water wells and spring developments.	Install flow-control devices on all wells and spring developments on BLM-administered lands within the planning area.	Install flow-control devices on all new wells and spring developments on BLM-administered lands within the planning area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
1038	PR:7.3 PR:7.4	Develop new water supplies (by preference: wells, springs, reservoirs) to disperse livestock and wildlife use.	Drill new water supply wells, develop new seeps and springs, and construct new reservoirs to BLM and state standards to disperse livestock and wildlife use on all BLM-administered lands in consultation with WGFD personnel and affected grazing lessees.	Same as Alternative B, except applied where resource damage is occurring due to concentrated ungulate use.	Same as Alternative C, except applied only where management and project plans have been developed.	Same as Alternative B, except applied only where resource damage is occurring due to ungulate use and where management and project plans have been developed. Exceptions would be granted on a case-by-case basis when determined by the authorized officer.
1039	PR:5.1 PR:5.3 PR:6.1 PR:6.3	Fence wells and reservoirs to exclude livestock and, in some cases, wildlife as issues arise. Fencing can extend the life of the development and maximize the investment (resource as well as monetary).	Fence all existing wells and multiple-use reservoirs on BLM-administered lands.	Fence all existing wells on BLM-administered lands constructed after 1995. Fence all existing multiple-use reservoirs on BLM-administered lands constructed after 1995.	Fence all new wells on BLM-administered lands. Fence all new construction multiple-use reservoirs on BLM-administered lands.	To protect water sources and associated investments, fence all wells (new and existing) and developed springs. Fencing of reservoirs would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
1040	PR:5.1 PR:6.1 PR:7.2	Rehabilitate and (or) re-develop well and spring developments and upgrade to new development practices as issues arise. Re-develop springs on BLM-administered lands when they become nonfunctional.	Rehabilitate and (or) re-develop BLM-authorized well and spring developments and upgrade to new development practices. New development practices include, but are not limited to, protection of the well/spring and facilities (fencing), provision for off-source water distribution (pipelines, troughs, tanks), water conservation measures (timers, flow control devices, preferential use of tanks and troughs over unlined pits and ponds), and use of alternative energy, where possible.	Same as Alternative B, except these measures would be applied only to well/spring developments producing 10 gallons per minute or more.	Same as Alternative B, except these measures would be applied only to well/spring developments producing 20 gallons per minute or more.	Same as Alternative C. In addition, developments producing less than 10 gallons per minute would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

1000 Physical Resources (PR) – Water						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
1041	PR:5.3 PR:6.1 PR:6.2 PR:7.1 PR:7.2	Evaluate use of alternative energy sources (e.g., solar and [or] wind power) on a case-by-case basis.	Use alternative energy sources (e.g., solar and [or] wind power) on all new water resource developments and convert existing water-well developments to 100 percent alternative energy sources on all BLM-administered lands where economically and physically feasible.	Use alternative energy sources (e.g., solar and [or] wind power) on all new water resource developments on all BLM-administered lands where existing traditional electric power is not present and where economically and physically feasible. Convert all existing water-well developments currently using generators to alternative energy sources (e.g., solar and [or] wind power) with propane generator power as a backup only, as needed, on all BLM-administered lands where economically and physically feasible and where current operator will maintain equipment. If gasoline- or diesel-powered generators are used in place of preferred propane powered generators, periodic inspections will be made to detect fuel spills and the operator will be responsible for cleanup costs.	Use alternative energy sources (e.g., solar and [or] wind power) on all new water resource developments on all BLM-administered lands where existing traditional electric power is not feasible and where economically and physically feasible. Same as Alternative C for conversion of existing water-well developments, except that the conversion will occur as existing facilities fail.	Use alternative energy sources (e.g., solar and [or] wind power) on new water resource developments on all BLM-administered lands where existing traditional electric power is not present and where economically and physically feasible. Convert existing water-well developments currently using generators to alternative energy sources (e.g., solar and [or] wind power) with propane generator power as a backup only, as needed, on all BLM-administered lands where economically and physically feasible and where the current operator will maintain equipment. If gasoline- or diesel-powered generators are used in place of preferred propane powered generators, periodic inspections will be made to detect fuel spills and the operator will be responsible for cleanup costs.
1042	PR:5.1 PR:6.1 PR:6.4 PR:7.1	Conversion of abandoned oil and gas wells for livestock and wildlife water supply use is currently addressed on a case-by-case basis.	Convert all suitable abandoned oil and gas development water-supply wells and suitable abandoned oil and gas wells where there is a need for additional water supplies to livestock and wildlife water supply use on BLM-administered lands.	Convert all suitable abandoned oil and gas development water-supply wells to livestock and wildlife water supply use on BLM-administered lands.	Convert all suitable abandoned oil and gas development water-supply wells to livestock and wildlife water supply use on BLM-administered lands where there currently is a need for additional water supplies.	Convert suitable abandoned oil and gas development water-supply wells and suitable abandoned oil and gas wells where there is a need for additional water supplies to livestock and wildlife water supply use on BLM-administered lands.
1043	PR:5.1 PR:5.2 PR:5.3 PR:5.4 PR:6.1	Evaluate the impact of oil- and gas-produced water discharge on stream channel and streambank stability on BLM-administered lands on a case-by-case basis. Produced water discharge originating from BLM-authorized projects will be subject to appropriate mitigation to prevent accelerated erosion or undesired stream channel adjustments. The mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to, riparian area development (i.e., vegetation establishment), evaporative pond development, and (or) re-injection of the water.	Evaluate the impacts and mitigate the adverse impacts of all proposed and existing oil- and gas-produced water discharge on stream channel and streambank stability on all BLM-administered lands.	Same as Alternative B.	Evaluate the impacts of oil- and gas-produced water discharge on stream channel and streambank stability in selected areas of BLM-administered lands and develop mitigation measures for future development.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

2000 Mineral Resources (MR) – Goals and Objectives

GOAL MR:1 Manage salable mineral permitting and development on BLM-administered lands within the planning area while minimizing impacts to other resource values.

GOAL MR:2 Manage conservation of leasable mineral resources without compromising the long-term health and diversity of public lands.

OBJECTIVES -

MR:2.1 Maintain oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development, while minimizing impacts to other resource values.

MR:2.2 Maintain coal leasing and exploration, while minimizing impacts to other resource values.

MR:2.3 Maintain opportunities to lease other solid leasable minerals, while minimizing impacts to other resource values.

MR:2.4 Facilitate the evaluation of public lands for oil and gas potential.

GOAL MR:3 Support the domestic need for energy resources.

OBJECTIVES -

MR:3.1 Maintain opportunities to explore and develop federal oil and gas resources and other leasable minerals.

MR:3.2 Maintain opportunities for the collection of subsurface geological (geophysical) data to aid in the exploration of oil and gas resources.

MR:3.3 Maintain opportunities to explore and develop coal resources within the planning area.

GOAL MR:4 Manage mining claim location, prospecting, and mining operations in a manner that will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands.

2000 Mineral Resources (MR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
2001	MR:2.1 MR:2.2 MR:3.1	Multiple mineral development conflicts are managed on a case-by-case basis as follows: Coal leasing would be deferred in producing oil and gas fields when coal development would interfere with oil and gas operations and economic recovery of the oil and gas resource; conventional oil and gas drilling and production activities would not be authorized when there are conflicts with coal mining; BLM WO IM-2003-253 would guide CBNG and coal mining conflicts; and all federal coal lands with mining claims would be acceptable for coal development and consideration for coal leasing, subject to valid existing rights.				
2002	MR:2.1 MR:3.1	Oil and gas leasing will be subject to the Wyoming BLM standard lease form. Changes to the standard lease form would be incorporated into the RMP by plan maintenance.				
2003	MR:2.1 MR:3.1	Oil and gas lease applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Leases will be issued with the least restrictive stipulations needed to protect other resource values. Stipulations to protect important resource values will be based on interdisciplinary review of individual proposals and environmental analysis.				
2004	MR:2.3 MR:3.1	The Casper Field Office is open to mineral leasing, including solid leasables and geothermal, unless specifically identified as administratively unavailable for the life of the plan for mineral leasing. These open areas will be managed on a case-by-case basis.				
2005	MR:2.3 MR:3.1	Acquired mineral estate administered by the BLM would be open to mineral leasing for other leasables, including phosphate, sodium, potassium, sulfur, gilsonite, bentonite, uranium, and hard rock locatable minerals, unless specifically closed to mineral leasing.				
2006	MR:2.3 MR:3.1	Those areas open to oil and gas leasing also would be open to leasing of other leasable minerals.				
2007	MR:1	Where possible, the routing of access roads will be made in conjunction with the surface owner.				
2008	MR:1	Mineral material sales are discretionary actions; therefore, disposal would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important resource values would be based on interdisciplinary review of individual proposals.				
2009	MR:2.2 MR:3.3	Lands within the planning area boundaries are open to coal exploration through the coal exploration license process.				
2010	MR:2.2 MR:3.3	On existing coal leases, stipulations to new oil and gas leases to resolve oil and gas/coal conflicts would be applied. On current LBAs, oil and gas leasing would be deferred until the LBA lease is issued.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

2000 Mineral Resources (MR) – Locatable						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
2011	MR:4	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open for prospecting for and development of locatable minerals. Under this alternative 527,582 acres are withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Of these 527,582 acres, 485,993 acres are BLM withdrawals and 41,589 acres are other Federal Agency withdrawals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open for prospecting for and development of locatable minerals. Under this alternative, 2,300,389 acres are withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Of these 2,300,389 acres, 2,251,435 acres are BLM withdrawals and 48,955 acres are other Federal Agency withdrawals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open for prospecting for and development of locatable minerals. Under this alternative, 1,187,643 acres would be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Of these 1,187,643 acres, 1,138,689 acres are BLM withdrawals and 48,954 acres are other Federal Agency withdrawals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open for prospecting for and development of locatable minerals. Under this alternative, 86,951 acres would be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Of these 86,951 acres, 51,685 acres are BLM withdrawals and 35,266 acres are other Federal Agency withdrawals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open for prospecting for and development of locatable minerals. Under this alternative, 458,661 acres would be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Of these 458,661 acres, 409,707 acres are BLM withdrawals and 48,954 acres are other Federal Agency withdrawals.

2000 Mineral Resources (MR) – Leasable: Coal						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
2012	MR:2.2 MR:3.3	No current management action exists for leasing lands outside the CDPA.	No coal development will be considered on BLM-administered lands outside the CDPA. These lands will be considered unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing.	Same as Alternative B.	If coal development potential is shown to exist, all BLM-administered lands outside the CDPA will be considered for coal leasing, unless specifically closed to mineral leasing. The coal-screening process will be completed on all newly identified lands having coal development potential.	Same as Alternative D.
2013	MR:2.2 MR:3.3	All BLM-administered lands within the CDPA identified in the 2001 Buffalo RMP maintenance action would be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing.	All BLM-administered lands within the CDPA identified in the 2001 Buffalo RMP maintenance action would be considered unacceptable for further consideration for coal leasing.	Same as Alternative B.	All BLM-administered lands within the CDPA identified in the 2001 Buffalo RMP maintenance action would be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing. The only exceptions are those lands determined unacceptable within the area. The coal unsuitability criteria are re-evaluated whenever new coal lease applications are received.	Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

2000 Mineral Resources (MR) – Leasable: Oil and Gas						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
a. Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form.						
2014	MR:2.1 MR:3.1	1,136,855 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form only.	446,019 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form only.	1,012,656 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form only.	1,524,375 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form only.	1,080,935 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form only.
b. Areas open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints, such as seasonal restrictions.						
2015	MR:2.1 MR:3.1	2,711,404 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints.	1,196,922 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints.	2,058,162 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints.	2,445,107 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints.	2,506,530 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints.
c. Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints, such as NSO stipulations, on an area more than 40 acres in size or more than ¼ mile in width. These are areas where it has been determined that highly restrictive lease stipulations are required to mitigate impacts to other lands or resource values. This category also includes areas where overlapping minor constraints would severely limit development of oil and gas resources.						
2016	MR:2.1 MR:3.1	770,991 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints.	2,296,267 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints.	1,113,078 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints.	662,664 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints.	843,139 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are open to leasing consideration and subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints.
d. Areas administratively unavailable for leasing. These are areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values can not be adequately protected with even the most restrictive lease stipulations; appropriate protection can be assured only by closing the lands to leasing. BLM would identify whether such closures are discretionary or nondiscretionary.						
2017	MR:2.1 MR:3.1	37,922 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are administratively unavailable for leasing for the life of the plan.	717,964 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are administratively unavailable for leasing for the life of the plan.	473,276 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are administratively unavailable for leasing for the life of the plan.	25,026 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are administratively unavailable for leasing for the life of the plan.	226,568 acres of federal oil and gas lease mineral estate are administratively unavailable for leasing for the life of the plan.
2018	MR:2.1 MR:3.1	Directional drilling would be required on a case-by-case basis to protect other resource values.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Directional drilling would not be required.	Same as Alternative A.
Oil and Gas Geophysical Operations						
2019	MR:2.1 MR:2.4	Those lands currently open to oil and gas leasing would continue to be open to geophysical operations. Those lands open to oil and gas leasing, but subject to an NSO restriction, may be open to geophysical operations should site specific NEPA analysis disclose a finding of no significant impact. No geophysical operations would be allowed in areas administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing.	Same as Alternative A, except geophysical operations on public surface would not be allowed in areas containing an NSO restriction.	Same as Alternative B.	The entire planning area would be open for geophysical operations on public surface.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

2000 Mineral Resources (MR) – Leasable: Other Solid Leasables						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
2020	MR:2.3 MR:3.1	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to leasing of other solid leasable minerals. Under this alternative, 37,922 acres would be administratively unavailable for leasing of other solid leasable minerals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to leasing of other solid leasable minerals. Under this alternative, 717,964 acres would be administratively unavailable for leasing of other solid leasable minerals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to leasing of other solid leasable minerals. Under this alternative, 473,276 acres would be administratively unavailable for leasing of other solid leasable minerals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to leasing of other solid leasable minerals. Under this alternative, 25,026 acres would be administratively unavailable for leasing of other solid leasable minerals.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to leasing of other solid leasable minerals. Under this alternative, 226,568 acres would be administratively unavailable for leasing of other solid leasable minerals.

2000 Mineral Resources (MR) – Salable						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
2021	MR:1	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to the disposal of mineral materials. Under this alternative, 51,924 acres would not be available for disposal of mineral materials.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to the disposal of mineral materials. Under this alternative, 737,118 acres would not be available for disposal of mineral materials.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to the disposal of mineral materials. Under this alternative, 304,620 acres would not be available for disposal of mineral materials.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to the disposal of mineral materials. Under this alternative, 42,786 acres would not be available for disposal of mineral materials.	BLM-administered mineral estate, except areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses, will be open to the disposal of mineral materials. Under this alternative, 257,017 acres would not be available for disposal of mineral materials.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

3000 Fire Management and Ecology (FM) – Goals and Objectives

GOAL FM:1 Manage wildland fire and fuels for the protection of public health, safety, property, and resource values.

OBJECTIVES -

FM:1.1 Manage hazardous fuels in areas of urban and industrial interface to reduce potential of loss due to catastrophic fire (10-year comprehensive strategy).

FM:1.2 Maintain a desired mix of seral stages within the following vegetation communities:

- Desert shrublands
- Forest and woodlands
- Grasslands
- Mountain shrublands
- Sagebrush (all subspecies)
- Riparian/wetland areas
- Aspen.

FM:1.3 Manage vegetation communities to maintain areas in Condition Class 1. Those vegetation communities in Condition Classes 2 and 3 will be managed to restore such communities toward Condition Class 1.

GOAL FM:2 Conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation when and where needed.

3000 Fire Management and Ecology (FM) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
3001	FM:1 FM:2	National Fire Suppression Guidelines and the current Fire Management Plan for the Eastern Wyoming Zone will guide fire suppression on public lands.				
3002	FM:1	During fire suppression, a resource advisor will be consulted or be assigned to all wildland fires that involve or threaten public lands.				
3003	FM:1	Use of retardant or foam within 300 feet of surface water sources would be prohibited.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

3000 Fire Management and Ecology (FM)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
3004	FM:1.1 FM:1.2	**FM2 – Heavy Equipment Use** Heavy equipment will not be used to construct firelines in areas containing wagon ruts of the Oregon and Bozeman trails. Cultural resource specialists or area resource specialists will be consulted for locations of identified wagon ruts before the use of or anticipated use of heavy equipment. Exceptions may be permitted for the protection of human life. Heavy equipment generally will not be used to construct firelines in elk critical winter range. The Platte River Resource Area wildlife biologist will be consulted when fires threaten elk critical winter range. If heavy equipment is used, rehabilitation work on lines will begin immediately after the fire is declared out. **FM3 – Fire Suppression in Bald Eagle Roost Areas** To the extent possible, trees will not be cut during fire suppression in bald eagle roost areas or within 200 yards of the roosts on Casper Mountain (Jackson Canyon and little Red Creek) and Pine Mountain. Exceptions will be permitted, when necessary, to control fires that threaten human life and (or) property. The Platte River Resource Area wildlife biologist will be consulted when fires threaten the bald eagle roost areas.	Appropriate management response will be used on all wildfires in the planning area. Full protection strategies and tactics will be used in the following areas: • WUI • Wildland industrial interface • Developed recreation sites • Developed electronics sites of all types In all other areas appropriate management response strategies and tactics will be determined by (but not limited to) the following: • Firefighter and public safety • Resource values at risk • Proximity to private land • Firefighting resource availability Tactical constraints follow: • The use of retardant within 300 feet of surface water (standing or running) is prohibited. • No trees are to be cut during suppression activities within 200 yards of an identified bald eagle roost. • No heavy equipment will be used within the following areas, except when human safety is at risk: ▪ Areas of cultural resource sensitivity ▪ Riparian/wetland habitats ▪ Big game crucial winter range habitats ▪ Greater sage-grouse leks ▪ Areas of highly erosive soils In areas not identified as full protection, heavy equipment usage will be limited to existing roads and trails or immediately adjacent to them.	Same as Alternative B, except there would be no full protection areas and use of heavy equipment in areas of highly erosive soils would be subject to a CSU restriction.	Full protection strategies and tactics would be used across the entire planning area.	Same as Alternative B.
3005	FM:1.1 FM:1.2	No similar action. In areas where a prescribed fires is planned, AMR will be used if a wildland fire is meeting the stated resource management objectives of the prescribed fire project. This AMR will emphasize containment within the Project Area/Allowable area as developed in the prescribed fire plan.	**Fire Use Guidelines** Natural ignitions within an area with a wildland fire-use plan for resource benefit would be allowed to proceed within a defined area under prescriptive guidelines to meet the desired management objectives. Wildland-fire use plans would be developed as opportunities arise for public lands within aspen, juniper, and true mountain mahogany communities where contiguous public lands are greater than 160 acres. To implement fire use on a landscape scale, cooperative agreements would be pursued with private landowners and the State of Wyoming.	**Fire Use Guidelines** Same as Alternative B. Wildland-fire use plans would be developed as opportunities arise for public lands within aspen, juniper, lodgepole pine, and true mountain mahogany communities where contiguous public lands are greater than 640 acres.	**Fire Use Guidelines** Same as Alternative B. Wildland-fire use plans would be developed as opportunities arise for public lands within aspen, juniper, lodgepole pine, true mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine, and big sagebrush (all subspecies) communities where contiguous public lands are greater than 1,280 acres.	**Fire Use Guidelines** Same as Alternative D, with the following addition: The BLM would pursue creating cooperative agreements with willing adjacent landowners, local governments, or land management agencies that wish to participate.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

3000 Fire Management and Ecology (FM)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
3006	FM:1.1 FM:1.2	**FM1 – Prescribed Burning** Prescribed burning will be implemented to manipulate vegetation on areas identified for treatment in the range, forestry, and wildlife programs. WL6 - No prescribed burning within bald eagle roost areas from November 1 to March 31.	**Management Ignited Prescribed Fire** Use prescribed burning to achieve measurable landscape level objectives from (1) other resources, including, but not limited to, forestry, wildlife, range, vegetation, and watershed; (2) the reduction of hazardous fuels; and (3) the introduction of fire into fire-adapted ecosystems.	**Management Ignited Prescribed Fire** Same as Alternative B.	**Management Ignited Prescribed Fire** Same as Alternative B.	**Management Ignited Prescribed Fire** Same as Alternative B, except "landscape level" would be changed to "5th order watershed."
3007	FM:2	**FM4 – Rehabilitation and Stabilization Following Wildland Fire** While there are no specific plan decisions, rehabilitation and stabilization following wildland fires will be conducted on a case-by-case basis.	Rehabilitate suppression-related damage, which includes chemical treatment where INPS invade.	Rehabilitate all fires on public lands, including damage from suppression activities and fire severity. Rehabilitation includes chemical treatment where INPS invade.	Evaluate all fires and rehabilitate, as needed, for suppression and fire-severity impacts. Chemical treatment where INPS invade would be used to rehabilitate.	Same as Alternative D.
3008	FM:1.1 FM:1.2	No similar action.	**Fuels Management** Utilize an integrated management technique approach (defined as prescribed fire, mechanical, chemical, or biological, followed by desired reseeding) to reduce fuels to protect high priority areas or resource values defined as, but not limited to the following: • Urban and industrial interface areas • Developed recreation areas • Commercial timber areas • Sensitive wildlife habitats • Range-improvement facilities • Communication sites • Municipal watersheds.	**Fuels Management** Same as Alternative B.	**Fuels Management** Same as Alternative B.	**Fuels Management** Same as Alternative B, except "sensitive wildlife habitats" would be changed to "wildlife habitats."
3009	FM:1.1 FM:1.2	No similar action.	Allow fuel-management activities on R&PP leases/conveyances to reduce fuel loads so the threat or impacts from wildfires is minimized.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) — Goals and Objectives

GOAL BR:1 Manage for the biological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to sustain vegetation, fish, wildlife, and special status species, while providing for multiple uses of BLM-administered lands.

OBJECTIVES -

BR:1.1 Maintain a diversity and distribution of plant species, habitats, seral stages, and types (e.g., age, structure, cover classes, density), including forests and woodlands, grasslands, mountain shrublands, sagebrush (all subspecies), riparian/wetland areas, and desert shrublands.

BR:1.2 Maintain forest stands at optimal stand health (considering density, basal area, canopy cover, age classes, and understory) by maintaining properly functioning communities.

BR:1.3 Old growth stands or those to be managed for old growth will follow the HFRA (USC 2003) section 102 for maintaining and managing those stands.

BR:1.4 Maintain sustainable forage levels for livestock and wildlife habitats.

BR:1.5 Emphasize the use of mechanical, chemical, and biological methods, as well as fire and livestock grazing, to achieve DFC.

BR:1.6 Maintain internal (BLM) and external support for managing INPS using an integrated approach for the detection, control, or eradication of new infestations.

BR:1.7 Continue coordination of INPS detection and control activities across jurisdictional and political boundaries and include provisions for INPS management for all BLM-funded or authorized actions.

BR:1.8 Maintain adequate baseline information regarding the extent and control of INPS to make informed decisions, evaluate effectiveness of management actions, and assess progress toward goals to improve INPS management.

BR:1.9 Manage lotic and lentic wetland/riparian areas toward PFC.

BR:1.10 Work with the WGFD to identify and improve fish and known special status fish passage and floodplain connectivity.

BR:1.11 Maintain an estimated 3.7 miles of Blue Ribbon streams.

BR:1.12 Maintain and improve an estimated 21.7 miles of Red and Yellow Ribbon streams.

BR:1.13 Maintain or improve habitats for introduction or reintroduction of fish species to existing and new reservoirs.

BR:1.14 Maintain or improve the continuity and productivity of wildlife habitats to support the WGFD wildlife population objectives.

BR:1.15 Maintain and improve seasonal habitats (e.g., concentration areas, migration corridors, etc.) of fish, wildlife, and special status species on a landscape scale.

BR:1.16 Identify and implement opportunities in coordination with the WGFD to introduce or reintroduce wildlife species to areas managed under activity plans.

BR:1.17 Maintain special status species plant communities in natural patterns on a landscape scale and maintain special status plant species' habitats in PFC, including natural diversity (i.e., composition and mosaics) and recognizing the impacts of natural processes (i.e., fire).

BR:1.18 Maintain identified high priority habitat in Shirley Basin black-footed ferret re-introduction area.

GOAL BR:2 Manage all BLM actions or authorized activities to sustain plant, fish, and wildlife populations and their habitats and to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.

OBJECTIVES -

BR:2.1 Minimize adverse impacts and mitigate unavoidable impacts to plant, fish, wildlife, and special status species and their habitats from BLM actions and authorized activities.

BR:2.2 Maintain an estimated 4.7 miles of fishery containing federally listed or Wyoming NSS1 species.

BR:2.3 Maintain or improve an estimated 69.5 miles of fishery containing other federal candidate, BLM sensitive, or Wyoming NSS2 and NSS3 species.

BR:2.4 Identify and implement opportunities in coordination with the WGFD to reintroduce special status aquatic species in streams.

GOAL BR:3 Manage environmental risks and associated impacts in a manner compatible with sustaining plant, fish, wildlife, and special status species populations. Environmental risks include, but are not limited to, parasites, diseases, insect outbreaks, catastrophic fires, contamination, pesticides, rodenticides, herbicides, and other hazards.

OBJECTIVES -

BR:3.1 Minimize adverse impacts of environmental risks on plant, fish, wildlife, and special status species.

BR:3.2 Manage pesticide, rodenticide, and herbicide application in a manner compatible with fish, wildlife, and special status species' health.

BR:3.3 Coordinate with other agencies to prevent or control diseases that threaten the health of humans, wildlife, livestock, and vegetation.

BR:3.4 Coordinate with other agencies to manage native and nonnative predatory animals that pose a threat to the health or productivity of natural ecosystems.

GOAL BR:4 Manage terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to provide sustainable recreational and educational benefits to the public.

OBJECTIVES -

BR:4.1 Improve public awareness and support, including partnerships, for the conservation, restoration, and management of vegetation, fish, wildlife, and special status species programs.

BR:4.2 Provide wildlife and wildlife habitat outreach and educational materials to the public on an annual basis.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4001	BR:1.10 BR:1.11 BR:1.12 BR: 2.1	Utilize current research, management and conservation plans, and other research and related directives (i.e., BLM IMs, MOUs, WGFD objectives), as appropriate, to guide habitat management for vegetation, fish, wildlife, and special status species (Appendix B).				
4002	BR:1.3 BR:1.9 BR:1.14 BR:2.1	Use produced water, where reasonable and practical, to develop and enhance waterfowl and special status species waterfowl habitats.				
4003	BR:1.2 BR:1.5 BR:1.7 BR:2.1	Apply, where surface development or disturbance occurs, appropriate mitigation measures to minimize impacts to vegetative resources. Emphasize the use of native plants appropriate to the site for reclamation activities. Nonnative species may be used on a case-by-case basis when resource objectives will not be met through the use of native species.				
4004	BR:1.11 BR:1.12 BR:1.14 BR:1.15 BR:1.17 BR:4.1 BR:4.2 BR:4.3	Develop a drought contingency plan to maintain adequate habitat components for viable fish, wildlife, and special status species populations.				
4005	BR:1.14 BR:1.15 BR:1.16	Develop water sources for wildlife and special status species in coordination with the WGFD and the BLM Water Development Handbook (H-1741-2).				
4006	BR:1.1 BR:1.2 BR:1.3 BR:1.4 BR:1.5 BR:1.14 BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:3.1 BR:3.3	The NSO restriction to protect sage-grouse habitats would not apply to prescribed fire, which would be used as a tool to meet management objectives. Prescribed fire would be subject to CSU and TLS restrictions with exceptions granted on a case-by-case basis after site-specific analysis and occasional adverse impacts.				
4007	BR:1.9	Manage lotic and lentic wetland/riparian areas toward PFC.				
4008	BR:1.6 BR:1.7 BR:1.8	Manage actively, where INPS occurs, to contain or eradicate them using an integrated management approach and cooperative agreements with county weed and pest control districts, industry, and private landowners across all vegetative communities.				
4009	BR:1.1 BR:1.2 BR:1.5 BR:1.7 BR:1.9 BR:1.14 BR:1.15	Utilize an integrated management approach (i.e., mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed fire, or livestock grazing) to manipulate seral stages within vegetative communities to achieve objectives defined by the range, forestry, wildlife, watershed, and INPS programs.				
4010	BR:1.6 BR:1.7 BR:4.1	Modify identified hazard fences and construct new fences in accordance with the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-1.				
4011	BR:1.6	Work with APHIS to control outbreaks of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets on public lands in the planning area in accordance with the MOU between USDI and APHIS.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4012	BR:2.1	Carry existing HMPs forward. As specified in the Bald Eagle HMP, all roosts outside the Jackson Canyon ACEC would be withdrawn from locatable mineral entry and closed to disposal of mineral materials. Develop, revise, update, and consolidate HMPs to include management objectives and prescriptions for wildlife.				
4013	BR:1.15	Prohibit surface development on public lands in an area from 1/2- to 1-mile of known or discovered bald eagle nests. The specific distance and dimensions of the area on which surface development will be prohibited will be determined on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the USFWS in accordance with the ESA.				
4014	BR:1.14 BR:4.1	Prohibit surface development on certain parcels of Muddy Mountain elk crucial winter range.				
4015	BR:1.17 BR:2.1	No surface occupancy or use is allowed in designated critical habitat for threatened or endangered species.				

4000 Biological Resources (BR)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4016	BR:1.1 BR:1.10 BR:1.11 BR:1.12 BR:1.13 BR:1.15 BR:1.16 BR:1.17 BR:2.1 BR:2.2 BR:2.3 BR:2.4 BR:4.1	Manage toward PFC on 350 miles of lotic and adjacent riparian habitat and 10,000 acres of lentic habitat to meet fish, wildlife, and special status species habitat requirements.	Manage toward DPC on 350 miles of lotic and adjacent riparian habitat and 10,000 acres of lentic habitat to meet fish, wildlife, and special status species habitat requirements.	Manage toward DPC on 175 miles of lotic and adjacent riparian habitat and 5,000 acres of lentic habitat to meet fish, wildlife, and special status species habitat requirements.	Manage toward DPC on 88 miles of lotic and adjacent riparian habitat and 2,500 acres of lentic habitat to meet fish, wildlife, and special status species habitat requirements.	Same as Alternative B, except manage toward PFC and identified DPC.
4017	BR:1.10 BR:1.12 BR:1.14 BR:2.2 BR:2.3 BR:4.1	No similar action.	Improve floodplain connectivity and function of 350 stream miles.	Improve floodplain connectivity and function of 108 stream miles.	Improve floodplain connectivity and function of 75 stream miles.	Same as Alternative D.
4018	BR:1.10 BR:1.14 BR:2.1 BR:2.3 BR:4.1	No similar action.	Restore 108 miles of incised streams and 90 acres of lentic habitat.	Restore 75 miles of incised streams and 47 acres of lentic habitat.	Restore 33 miles of incised streams and 43 acres of lentic habitat.	Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4019	BR:1.10 BR:1.11 BR:1.12 BR:1.13 BR:1.14 BR:2.1 BR:2.2 BR:2.3 BR:2.4 BR:4.1 BR:4.2	Water rights of all new projects are obtained by the BLM from the State of Wyoming. Existing BLM projects needing water rights are obtained by the BLM from the State of Wyoming on a case-by-case basis.	Water rights will be pursued for the benefit of fisheries, wildlife, and special status species habitats.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B, except no water rights can be obtained for in-stream flow, since that right is reserved for the State of Wyoming.
4020	BR:1.10 BR:1.11 BR:1.13 BR:1.14 BR:2.1 BR:4.1 BR:4.2	Water sources for fisheries, waterfowl, and special status species waterfowl are developed opportunistically (estimated 1,500 acres currently exist).	Develop an estimated 1,000 acres of surface water for fish, waterfowl, and special status species waterfowl.	Develop an estimated 500 acres of surface water for fish, waterfowl, and special status species waterfowl.	Develop an estimated 100 acres of surface water for fish, waterfowl, and special status species waterfowl.	Same as Alternative A, except with a focus on developing an additional 100 acres of surface water for fish, waterfowl, and special status species waterfowl.
4021	BR:1.14 BR:2.1 BR:3.1 BR:3.2 BR:4.1	Mitigation is developed on a case-by-case basis for project-level activities.	Utilize Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Mitigation Policy as a guideline for developing mitigation for project-level activities.	Utilize a full range of mitigation options (including offsite mitigation) when developing mitigation for project-level activities for wildlife and special status species habitats.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative C.
4022	BR:1.15	**Table Mountain, Springer/Bump-Sullivan, and Rawhide** Table Mountain HMP (1977; 1,549 acres; waterfowl, upland game, fisheries habitats, and birding) – manage in cooperation with the WGFD. Springer/Bump-Sullivan HMP (1966; 593 acres; waterfowl, upland game, and fisheries habitats) – manage in cooperation with WGFD. Rawhide HMP (1986; 200 acres; waterfowl and upland game habitats and birding) – manage in cooperation with the WGFD (no cooperative agreement has been developed yet). A protective withdrawal will be established on the Table Mountain and Springer/Bump-Sullivan HMP areas (2,018 acres of BLM-administered lands). The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral-leasing laws. The existing C&MU classification will be terminated. The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Table Mountain area.	**Table Mountain, Springer/Bump-Sullivan, and Rawhide** Same as Alternative A. A protective withdrawal will be established on the Table Mountain and Springer/Bump-Sullivan HMP areas (2,018 acres of BLM-administered lands) and on the Rawhide HMP area (183 acres) (total of 2,201 acres). The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral-leasing laws. The existing C&MU classification will be terminated.	**Table Mountain, Springer/Bump-Sullivan, and Rawhide** On a short-term basis, continue existing management of the Table Mountain, Springer/Bump-Sullivan, and Rawhide HMP areas. Within 5 years, transfer management to the WGFD through disposal. If not disposed of to the WGFD within 5 years, make available for disposal to other agencies/organizations that will manage the lands for wildlife habitat and public recreation. In concert with the disposal action, revoke the C&MU classification and do not withdraw these areas. The BLM will not pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Table Mountain area.	**Table Mountain, Springer/Bump-Sullivan, and Rawhide** Same as Alternative C.	**Table Mountain, Springer/Bump-Sullivan, and Rawhide** Same as Alternative C.
4023	BR:4.1	Obtain access to areas identified below. Table Mountain	No similar action.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Negotiate easements, where needed, to meet program needs. These needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Vegetation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Management Actions Applicable to All Vegetation						
4024	BR:1.14 BR:4.1	No similar action.	Areas currently identified with low development potential for coal and oil and gas resources with public surface ownership greater than 50 percent, would be managed to retain intact blocks of native vegetation where contiguous acreage of greater than 10,000 acres is present (63% or 660,498 acres, of which 413,552 are BLM-administered surface). In these areas, the following restrictions would apply: a. These blocks (1 through 16) would be (1) administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing and (2) a geophysical operation on public surface for the life of the plan. Activities for existing oil and gas leases would be managed intensively (see Appendix U). Existing leases would be allowed to expire and not be renewed. b. These blocks would be withdrawn from the operation of the public land laws related to locatable minerals. c. These blocks would be closed to mineral material disposal. Existing permits would be allowed to expire without renewal or expansion. d. These blocks would not be open to wind/renewable energy development. e. These blocks would remain open to livestock grazing. f. CSU within areas containing big game crucial winter range and NSO within a ½-mile radius of sage-grouse leks, except for vegetative/ silviculture treatments, INPS control, and fuels management. Maintenance of existing facilities would be allowed. In areas outside of big game crucial winter ranges or outside a ½-mile radius of sage-grouse leks, all surface-disturbing activities would be subject to CSU stipulations that would result in the least amount of disturbance and be consistent with fragmentation objectives. ROW and similar facilities would be located adjacent to other facilities in corridor fashion, where practical.	Same as Alternative B, except the restrictions would apply only to those blocks (3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16) containing large areas of important big game crucial winter range or sage-grouse leks/habitats (63 percent or 279,305 acres, of which 177,035 acres are BLM-administered surface).	Restrictions to protect habitat fragmentation would not apply.	Same as Alternative C except (1) the boundaries in Blocks 3, 5, 8, 11, and 16 have been adjusted as depicted on Map 22 and (2) only restrictions a. through e. apply. All allowed surface-disturbing activities within the designated blocks would be subject to a CSU restriction, minimizing surface disturbance to meet management objectives (68 percent192,545 acres, of which 131,879 acres are BLM-administered surface).

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Vegetation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products						
4025	BR:1.1 BR:1.2	The direction provided by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, the Healthy Forests Initiative and the 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy will be followed. Old growth stands will be identified and maintained or restored to pre-suppression conditions. Large tree retention will be emphasized. Timber stand management will focus on small diameter trees, thinning, strategic fuel breaks and prescribed fire to modify fire behavior. Develop a detailed timber management activity plan for the following 17 areas (primary management will be directed at ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine composition: • Esterbrook • Hartville Sunrise • Negro Hill • Banner Mountain • Coal Mountain • Bessemer Mountain • Salt Canyon • Deer Creek • Grave Springs • South Cottonwood-Notches Dome • Baldy Ridge • Rattlesnake Mountains • Badwater • Sioux Pass • Pine Mountain • Bates Creek-Sheep Creek • Squaw Mountain.	Management emphasis will be on restoring composition, structure and processes of forests and woodlands. Managing old growth for watershed stability, wildlife habitat, and recreation as primary resource considerations. Maximize opportunities to promote forest and woodland diversity, species vitality, and genetic diversity. Old growth stands will be identified and maintained or restored to pre-suppression conditions. Large tree retention will be emphasized. Inventory and classify all forest and woodlands as (1) commercial forestland and (2) noncommercial woodland.	Manage forest and woodlands not identified as old growth under HFRA to achieve a sustainable flow of wood products. Old growth stands will be identified and maintained or restored to pre-suppression conditions. Inventory and classify forest and woodlands defined in Alternative A as (1) commercial forestland and (2) noncommercial woodland	Manage commercial forest and woodlands not identified as old growth under HFRA to achieve maximum wood growth and flow of forest products. Old growth stands will be identified and maintained or restored to pre-suppression conditions. Inventory and classify all forest and woodlands as (1) commercial forestland and (2) noncommercial woodland.	Same as Alternative B, except manage forestlands to achieve a sustainable flow of wood products with forestlands being the primary resource, while also managing for multiple uses (i.e., watershed health and stability, wildlife, recreation, livestock grazing, etc.).
4026	BR:1.1 BR:1.2 BR:1.5	Same action as 4022.	Manage for desired forest composition, structure and processes to improve the health condition in commercial forestlands. Wildlife trees to include snags, and downed woody debris will be planned into and become an integral part of the stand. The natural forces of insect and disease infestations will be allowed to run their natural courses.	Manage for desired forest composition structure and processes condition in identified old growth. Other commercial forestlands where all age classes are represented, insects are endemic rather than epidemic, and sanitation cuts are used to remove trees infected with mistletoe and blister rust.	Manage commercial forest and woodlands not identified as old growth under HFRA to maximize production of forest products. Implement stand-treatment cycles for commercial ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir stands.	Same as Alternative C.
4027	BR:1.2	Same action as 4022.	Manage all ponderosa pine, mixed conifer and lodgepole pine stands for old growth pre-suppression conditions. Utilize prescribed fire and mechanical treatments in these stands to thin new growth, promote old growth, and maintain desired understory. Selected snags will be left for wildlife nesting, perches, and sources of food and cover. Products will be removed and sold for market value.	Manage ponderosa pine stands not identified as old growth under HFRA to achieve a sustainable flow of wood products. Utilize prescribed fire in these stands to thin new growth and maintain desired overstory and understory. Selected snags will be left for wildlife nesting, perches, and sources of food and cover. Products will be removed and sold for market value.	Manage all commercial stands not identified as old growth under HFRA to achieve a maximum flow of wood products. Utilize full range of silviculture practices to thin new growth and maintain desired age classes. Products will be removed and sold for market value.	Manage ponderosa, mixed conifer and lodgepole stands not identified as old growth under HFRA to a sustainable flow of small diameter wood products. Utilize prescribed fire in these stands to thin new growth and maintain desired overstory and understory. Selected snags will be left for wildlife nesting, perches, and sources of food and cover. Products will be removed and sold for market value. Manage ponderosa pine stands in Little Red Creek, Esterbrook, and Jackson Canyon for old growth, whether they meet HRFA old growth standards or not.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Vegetation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4028	BR:1.2	Silvicultural practices will complement restoration of old growth timber . Lodgepole pine seedling stands will be thinned through Christmas tree sales. Commercial lodgepole pine stands will be thinned by sales of posts, poles, and firewood. Clear-cutting of 3 to 5 acres will provide for natural regeneration. If the stand is not regenerating naturally in 3 years, artificial regeneration will be undertaken.	Silvicultural treatments would emphasize restoration of pre-suppression stand composition structure and processes and be directed at fuels reduction , insect and disease control, revitalizing and regenerating desirable forest species, and maintaining or improving wildlife habitats. Silvicultural treatments would emphasize reduction of small diameter trees primarily through pre-commercial and commercial thinning and prescribed fire. Other approved silviculuture practices would include clear-cutting, shelterwood, seed-tree cutting, release cutting, mechanical mastication, salvage cuttings, chemical treatment, and planting/seeding when required. Clear-cuts are limited to 5 acres or less and mimic natural disturbance openings.	Silvicultural treatments would be used for insect and disease control and to promote a sustainable flow of small diameter wood products. In old growth stands and other stands where feasible, the silvicultural treatments would emphasize the restoration of pre-suppression composition, structure and processes. Silvicultural treatments include: pre-commercial and commercial thinnings, prescribed fire with clear-cutting, shelterwood, seed-tree cutting, release-cutting, improvement and salvage cuttings, chemical treatment, mechanical mastication and planting/seeding when required. Clear-cuts are limited to 20 acres or less and mimic natural disturbance openings.	Silvicultural treatments in stands not identified as old growth would be used to maximize wood growth in commercial forestlands. Silviculture treatments include thinnings, clear-cutting, shelterwood cutting, seed-tree cutting, release cutting, improvement and salvage cutting, prescribed fire, chemical, and planting/thinning when required.	Same as Alternative C.
4029	BR:1.2 BR:1.5	Full suppression of wildland fires within forestlands would continue.	Utilize wildland fire to achieve DFC for watershed stability and wildlife habitats. Suppress wildland fire where fire intensity poses high risk to forest stands or recreation infrastructure.	Utilize wildland fire in commercial forest stands to reduce fuel loads and (or) satisfy stand prescriptions.	Suppress all wildland fires in commercial forest stands.	Same as Alternative C, except wildland fire would be used in all forest stands to reduce fuel loads and (or) satisfy stand prescriptions. Utilize Appropriate Management Response to wildland fire, where possible, in commercial forest stands where a benefit would be a desired condition for watershed stability and wildlife habitat.
4030	BR:1.2	Negotiate and procure access that will facilitate the harvest of wood products from commercial forestlands. The stumpage value of the sale may be adjusted to offset access costs.	Utilize landowner agreements (cooperative agreements) for ingress/egress on product sales involving isolated commercial forestlands.	Concentrate forest management on commercial forestlands that have legal access. Ingresses/egresses would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.	Access (cooperative agreements and administrative) is the responsibility of the contractor and (or) partner for product sales in commercial forestlands.	Same as Alternative C.
4031	BR:1.2 BR:1.5	Harvest in Muddy Mountain EEA. Thinning will be done throughout the 1,260-acre Muddy Mountain EEA, as needed. About 200 MBF per year will be harvested annually for 5 years. The cut will be directed toward pine beetle control. After the 5-year period, the annual cut in the EEA will be about 25 MBF.	Manage forest stands within the 1,260-acre Muddy Mountain EEA in accordance with the Muddy Mountain EEA Forest Plan and emphasize forest stand management that benefits recreation use and wildlife habitats. Provide for casual harvest (firewood, posts and poles, hobby wood, etc.) up to 100 MBF annually where wildlife and recreation objectives are met. Treat aspen to achieve desired stand health. Interpret forest management practices that benefit recreation and education.	Manage forest stands within the 1,260-acre Muddy Mountain EEA in accordance with the Muddy Mountain EEA Forest Plan. Harvest at an annual rate of about 100 MBF where wildlife and recreation objectives are met. Treat aspen to achieve desired stand health. Interpret forest management practices to benefit recreation and education.	Manage forest stands within the 1,260-acre Muddy Mountain EEA in accordance with the Muddy Mountain EEA Forest Plan and accelerate harvest to an annual rate of about 200 MBF per year (all products) for 5 years. Thereafter, maintain an annual harvest at 100 MBF. Utilize casual harvest and commercial sales. Provide for mixed age stands, promote forest health by treating forest disease and insects as needed, protect recreation infrastructure by reducing ground and ladder fuels, and treat aspen to achieve desired stand health.	Same as Alternative C.
4032	BR:1.2	No similar action.	Slash, residues from hazard reduction, thinning, and tree damage from the elements will be scattered, piled and burned, chipped onsite, or broadcast burned.	Utilize biomass where markets are available. If unavailable, chip and scatter, pile and burn woody debris, or broadcast burn.	Utilize biomass generated from all forest sales and treatments.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Vegetation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4033	BR:1.1 BR:1.14 BR:1.16 BR:4.1	Actions to achieve DFC in 2,822 acres of aspen communities are implemented on a case-by-case basis.	Manage 2,822 acres of aspen toward DPC per the criteria defined in Aspen Ecosystems Objectives for Sustaining Biodiversity. Utilize aspen communities to the greatest extent possible as natural fuel breaks in urban interface areas and wildlife habitats.	Manage 1,411 acres (50 percent of 2,822 acres) of aspen toward DPC per the criteria defined in Aspen Ecosystems Objectives for Sustaining Biodiversity. Utilize aspen communities to the greatest extent possible as natural fuel breaks in urban interface areas and wildlife habitats.	Manage 706 acres (25 percent of 2,822 acres) of aspen toward DPC per the criteria defined in Aspen Ecosystems Objectives for Sustaining Biodiversity. Utilize aspen communities to the greatest extent possible as natural fuel breaks in urban interface areas and wildlife habitats.	Same as Alternative B.
4034	BR:1.1 BR:1.2 BR:1.14 BR:1.15	Actions to achieve DFC in woodland communities are implemented on a case-by-case basis.	Retain or allow expansion of select areas of woodlands that provide thermal and hiding cover for elk and mule deer.	Create vegetation mosaics within woodlands that provide a preferred ratio of woodlands and adjacent habitats.	Limber pine and other woodland stands will be maintained or allowed to expand.	Same as Alternative C.
4035	BR:1.1 BR:1.2 BR:1.5	Actions to achieve DFC in woodland communities are implemented on a case-by-case basis.	Treat woodland encroachment in grassland, sagebrush, aspen, and other vegetative communities where it is determined to be detrimental to other resource values or uses.	Same as Alternative B.	Woodland encroachment in grassland, sagebrush, aspen, and other vegetative communities will not be treated.	Same as Alternative B.
4036	BR:1.2 BR:1.5	Actions to achieve DFC in woodland communities are implemented on a case-by-case basis.	Silvicultural treatments will be applied, as needed, to achieve objectives.	Silvicultural treatments will be applied, as needed, to achieve objectives.	Silvicultural treatments will not be applied.	Same as Alternative C.
Grassland and Shrubland Communities						
4037	BR:1.1 BR:1.14 BR:4.1	Actions to achieve DFC in sagebrush communities are implemented on a case-by-case basis. Existing sagebrush communities in the planning area are estimated at 630,183 acres.	Manage 630,183 acres of sagebrush communities toward DPC.	Manage 315,902 acres (50 percent of 630,183 acres) of sagebrush communities toward DPC.	Manage 157,546 acres (25 percent of 630,183 acres) acres of sagebrush communities toward DPC.	Same as Alternative B.
4038	BR:1.1 BR:1.14 BR:4.1	Actions to achieve DFC in 46,779 acres of mountain shrub communities are implemented on a case-by-case basis. Apply vegetative treatments where and when needed to achieve DFC, which may include, but not be limited to, improving age class diversity, plant vigor, and forage quality.	Manage 46,779 acres of mountain shrub communities toward DPC.	Manage 23,390 acres (50 percent of 46,779) of mountain shrub communities toward DPC.	Manage 11,695 acres (25 percent of 46,779) of mountain shrub communities toward DPC.	Same as Alternative B.
Riparian and Wetland Communities						
4039	BR:1.1 BR:1.9 BR:1.11 BR:1.12 BR:2.2 BR:2.3 BR:4.1	Evaluate on a case-by-case basis the need for fencing of streams on BLM-administered lands.	Protect and (or) enhance riparian, wetland, and streamside areas, as necessary, with special management, including, but not limited to, fencing, development of alternative water supplies, livestock herding, placement of supplements (feed and mineral), pasture boundary adjustments, and season of use.	Same as Alternative B, except apply only to streams (regardless of class) that are non-functional or functional at risk on all BLM-administered lands.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Vegetation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Invasive, Nonnative Plant Species (INPS) and Pest Control						
4040	BR:1.1 BR:1.9 BR:1.11 BR:1.12 BR:2.2 BR:2.3 BR:4.1	No similar action.	Eradicate 1,700 acres of salt cedar.	Reduce salt cedar acreage by 1,275 acres.	Reduce salt cedar acreage by 850 acres.	Inventory and develop a treatment plan to reduce or eliminate salt cedar stands over the life of the plan.
4041	BR:1.6 BR:1.7 BR:1.8	INPS are controlled on a case-by-case basis with no comprehensive management program.	Develop a comprehensive INPS management program consistent with "Partners Against Weeds" and include the following: 1) Develop situational and site-specific mitigation measures 2) Designate Weed Management Areas • Level I Weed Management Area – Emphasis is on containment of heavily infested areas and stopping the spread of weeds to uninfested areas. This area currently includes 829,133 public acres, but will expand and contract based on inventory and treatment. • Level II Weed Management Area – Emphasis is on the eradication of small patches and isolated infestations, and stopping the spread of weeds to uninfested areas. This area currently includes 532,444 public acres but will expand and contract based on inventory and treatment.	Same as Alternative B.	A comprehensive INPS management program would not be developed.	Same as Alternative B, except the reference to acreage is removed under the Weed Management Areas.
4042	BR:1.1 BR:1.6 BR:1.7 BR:1.8 BR:1.9	No similar action.	**Livestock Movement from INPS Infested Areas** When the authorized officer determines that livestock are likely carrying ingested INPS seeds, the authorized officer may require that said livestock are flushed for a period of 72 hours before allowing the livestock to move onto or within public lands.	**Livestock Movement from INPS Infested Areas** When the authorized officer determines that livestock are likely carrying ingested INPS seeds in a Level I Weed Management Area, the authorized officer may require that said livestock are flushed for a period of 72 hours before allowing the livestock to move onto or within the public lands.	**Livestock Movement from INPS Infested Areas** Livestock flushing would not be required.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Fish

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Management actions impacting fish are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for fish.						

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Wildlife

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Big Game						
4043	BR:1.14 BR:4.1	No surface development is allowed from November 15 through April 30 (TLS) on all big game crucial winter ranges. The authorized officer may approve exceptions, waivers, or modifications of this limitation in writing, including documented supporting analysis. This does not apply to maintenance of existing facilities.	Restrict surface-disturbing and wildlife-disturbing activities from November 15 through April 30 (TLS) on all crucial big game winter ranges.	No surface disturbance and wildlife-disturbing activities are allowed from November 15 through April 30 (TLS) on all crucial big game winter ranges. For developments occurring in crucial big game winter ranges, a wildlife mitigation plan would be developed and include maintenance and operation activities. The authorized officer can grant exceptions for development activities. This restriction would not apply to the Salt Creek and Wind River MAs.	No surface-disturbing and wildlife disturbing activities are allowed from November 15 through April 30 (TLS) on all crucial big game winter ranges. The authorized officer can grant exceptions. This restriction would not apply to the Salt Creek and Wind River MAs.	Same as Alternative D.
Trophy Game						
4044	BR:4.1	Baiting of trophy game animals within the Muddy Mountain EEA is prohibited within ½ mile of any development.	Baiting of trophy game animals is prohibited within 1 mile of any BLM recreation development (i.e., developed campgrounds, interpretive sites, trailheads, trails, and picnic areas).	Baiting of trophy game animals is prohibited within ½ mile of any BLM recreation development (i.e., developed campgrounds, interpretive sites, trailheads, trails, and picnic areas).	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative B.
Furbearing Animals						
Management actions impacting furbearing animals are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for furbearing animals.						
Predatory Animals						
Management actions impacting predatory animals are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for predatory animals.						
Small Game						
Management actions impacting small game are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for small game animals.						
Game Birds						
4045	BR:1.14 BR:4.1	Surface occupancy or use within ¼ mile of a sharp-tailed grouse strutting/dancing ground will be restricted or prohibited unless the operator/proponent and the authorized officer arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts (CSU).	Prohibit surface disturbance or occupancy (NSO) within ½ mile of the perimeter of occupied sharp-tailed grouse leks. Avoid human activity between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 (TLS) within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sharp-tailed grouse leks.	Prohibit surface disturbance or occupancy (NSO) within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sharp-tailed grouse leks. Avoid human activity between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 (TLS) within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sharp-tailed grouse leks.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Wildlife						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4046	BR:1.14 BR:4.1	No surface use is allowed within 1-¾ miles from the ¼ mile protection zone between March 1 and June 15 so that the nesting area around the sharp-tailed grouse strutting/dancing ground can be protected. The authorized officer may authorize exceptions to the time and distance limitations (TLS) in any particular year.	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable sharp-tailed grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 4 miles of an occupied lek (NSO). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in identified sharp-tailed grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat outside the 4-mile buffer would be prohibited from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable sharp-tailed grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within 2 miles of an occupied lek (NSO). Surface disturbing and disruptive activities in identified sharp-tailed grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat outside the 2-mile buffer would be prohibited from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Migratory Game Birds (Waterfowl)						
Management actions impacting migratory game birds (waterfowl) are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for migratory game birds (waterfowl).						
Nongame (Raptors)						
4047	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	To protect important raptor nesting habitat, activities or surface use will not be allowed from February 1 to July 31 within certain areas. The BLM authorized officer, who will consider topography and raptor prey habitats surrounding the nest site, will determine the size of the buffer zone on a case-by-case basis. Usually, the buffer zone will be ¼ to ½ mile. The general dates of restriction for all species are February 1 through July 31 (or until the young have fledged) (TLS).	Prohibit surface disturbance or occupancy within ½ mile buffer of raptor nests from February 1 to July 31, or until young birds have fledged (TLS).	Avoid surface disturbance or occupancy within ½ mile buffer of raptor nests from February 1 to July 31, or until young birds have fledged (TLS). The authorized officer, on a case-by-case basis, may grant exceptions to seasonal stipulations.	Avoid surface disturbance or occupancy within a ½-mile buffer of raptor nests, except for the species listed below, for which a ¼-mile buffer will be required: Red-tailed hawk Swainson's hawk American kestrel Osprey Great horned owl Long-eared owl Northern saw-whet owl Common barn owl Western screech owl The seasonal restriction would be February 1 to July 31, or until young birds have fledged (TLS). The authorized officer, on a case-by-case basis, may grant exceptions to seasonal stipulations.	Same as Alternative D.
Nongame (Neotropical Migrants)						
Management actions impacting nongame neotropical migrants are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for nongame neotropical migrants.						
Nongame (Mammals)						
Management actions impacting nongame mammals are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for nongame mammals.						
Nongame (Reptiles/Amphibians)						
Management actions impacting nongame reptiles/amphibians are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for nongame reptiles/amphibians.						

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Special Status Species - Plants						
4048	BR:1.17 BR:2.1	Special status plant habitats are considered on a case-by-case basis when designing placement of water development projects.	Design placement of water developments and placement of salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least ¼ mile away from known locations of special status plants. Consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on known locations of special status plants.	Design placement of water developments and placement of salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least 500 feet away from known locations of special status plants. Consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on the known locations of special status plants.	Design placement of water developments and placement of salt and mineral supplements for livestock at least 300 feet away from known locations of special status plants. Consider the concentration of browsing/grazing animals on the known locations of special status plants.	Same as Alternative C, except on a case-by-case basis exceptions could be granted when site-specific analysis determines that there would be no adverse impacts to special status plants.
Special Status Species - Fish						
4049	BR:1.1 BR:1.14	No similar action.	Manage public access on all occupied special status species fish habitats.	Same as Alternative B.	Manage public access for federally listed species designated critical habitat areas.	Same as Alternative D.
Special Status Species – Upland Game Birds (greater sage-grouse)						
Bates Hole and Fish Creek/Willow Creek						
4050	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	Avoid surface disturbance or occupancy within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks. Avoid human activity between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 (TLS) within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks.	Occupied sage-grouse leks would have a ¾-mile NSO buffer to protect breeding habitats. Human activity would be avoided between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 (TLS) within this buffer. Leks, which are currently displayed as points, would be displayed as polygons.	Same as Alternative B, except occupied sage-grouse leks would have a ½-mile NSO buffer to protect breeding habitats.	Same as Alternative A.	Occupied sage-grouse leks would have a ¾-mile CSU buffer to protect breeding habitats. Human activity would be avoided between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 (TLS) within this buffer. Leks, which are currently displayed as points, would be displayed as polygons.
4051	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 miles of an occupied lek, or in identified sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats outside the 2-mile buffer from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats surrounding occupied sage-grouse leks will be delineated through a 4-mile buffer. Within this 4-mile buffer, suitable nesting brood-rearing habitats would be protected through an NSO stipulation. Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in identified sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats outside the 4-mile buffer would be restricted from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Same as Alternative B, except occupied sage-grouse leks would have a 2-mile buffer where NSO would be allowed in suitable nesting and early brood-rearing habitats. Occupied sage-grouse leks would have an additional 1-mile buffer extending beyond the 2-mile buffer, where surface-disturbing or disruptive activities would be restricted from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Same as Alternative A.	Occupied sage-grouse leks would have a 4-mile buffer. Within this buffer, surface development or wildlife-disturbing activities would be restricted March 15 through July 15 (TLS). Also, within this 4-mile buffer (CSU), surface disturbing activities would avoid sagebrush stands of greater than 10 percent canopy cover. Within this 4-mile buffer, mitigate for power poles and other high profile structures that may provide raptor perches. Avoid placement of these structures if possible, or install devices to preclude raptor perching on the structures.
4052	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in sage-grouse winter habitats from November 15 to March 14 (TLS).	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	As sage-grouse winter habitats are designated, a TLS would restrict activities from November 15 to March 14. Within the designated winter habitats, CSU for surface disturbing activities in sagebrush stands of greater than 20 percent canopy cover.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4053	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	Vegetative treatments would occur on a case-by-case basis.	The areas would have priority for vegetative treatments to improve sage-grouse habitats and for vegetation monitoring to ensure residual herbaceous vegetation is maintained for nesting cover on public lands. Vegetative treatments to meet sage-grouse habitat objectives would be allowed inside the buffers.	Same as Alternative B	Same as Alternative A.	The areas would have priority for vegetative treatments to improve sage-grouse habitats and for vegetation monitoring to ensure residual herbaceous vegetation is maintained for nesting cover on public lands.
Areas Outside of Bates Hole and Fish Creek/Willow Creek						
4054	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	Avoid surface disturbance or occupancy within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks. Avoid human activity between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 (TLS) within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks.	Same as Alternative A, except prohibit surface disturbance or occupancy within ½ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks.	Same as Alternative A, except prohibit surface disturbance or occupancy within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
4055	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 miles of an occupied lek, or in identified sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats outside the 2-mile buffer from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 4 miles of an occupied lek (NSO). Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in identified sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats outside the 4-mile buffer would be prohibited from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 miles of an occupied lek (NSO). Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in identified sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats outside the 2-mile buffer would be prohibited from March 15 to July 15 (TLS).	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
4056	BR:1.15 BR:2.1 BR:4.1	Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in sage-grouse winter habitats from November 15 to March 14 (TLS).	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in sage-grouse winter habitats from November 15 to March 14 (TLS).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Special Status Species – Migratory Game Birds (Waterfowl)						
Management actions impacting special status species migratory game birds (waterfowl) are encompassed in other wildlife and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for special status species migratory game birds (waterfowl).						
Special Status Species – Nongame (Raptors)						
4057	BR:2.1 BR:3.1 BR:4.1	No similar action.	To provide for long-term protection of ANS sites, a combination of NSO and TLS buffer zones would be applied around the nesting structures. The TLS restriction would be from February 1st through July 31st, or until the young fledge. For ferruginous hawk ANS, apply a ½-mile NSO buffer with an additional ½-mile seasonal buffer (total of a 1-mile buffer). For golden eagle ANS, apply a ½-NSO buffer without an additional seasonal buffer (total ½-mile buffer). This restriction is intended to preclude the placement of permanent facilities within the NSO buffers. Development and placement of ANS targeting ferruginous hawk should be managed intensively to maintain a majority of the population utilizing natural nesting substraights.	Similar to Alternative B, except as follows: For ferruginous hawk ANSs, apply a ½-mile NSO with an additional ¼- mile seasonal buffer (TLS) (i.e., a total of a ¾ -mile buffer). For golden eagle ANSs, apply a ½-mile NSO buffer without an additional seasonal buffer (i.e., a total ½-mile buffer). Development and placement of an ANS targeting ferruginous hawk should be managed intensively to maintain a majority of the population utilizing natural nesting substraights.	Similar to Alternative B, except as follows: For ferruginous hawk ANSs, apply a ¼-mile NSO buffer with an additional ½- mile seasonal buffer (TLS) (i.e., a total of a ¾ -mile buffer). For golden eagle ANSs, apply a ¼-mile NSO buffer with an additional ¼-mile seasonal (TLS) buffer (i.e., a total ½-mile buffer). Development and placement of an ANS targeting ferruginous hawk should be managed intensively to maintain a majority of the population utilizing natural nesting substraights.	Same as Alternative B, except strive to maintain overall ANS usage that does not exceed 25 percent of the total nesting population for ferruginous hawks.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

4000 Biological Resources (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
4058	BR:2.1 BR:4.1	To protect special status raptor nesting habitats, activities or surface use will not be allowed from February 1st through July 31st within certain areas (TLS). The BLM authorized officer, who will consider topography and special status raptor prey (excluding bald eagles) habitats surrounding the nest site will determine the size of a buffer zone on a case-by-case basis. Usually the buffer zone will be ¼ to ½ mile.	Prohibit surface disturbance or occupancy within 1-mile buffer of special status raptor nests (excluding bald eagles) from February 1 to July 31, or until young birds have fledged (TLS).	Same as Alternative B. The authorized officer, on a case-by-case basis, may grant exceptions to seasonal restrictions.	Avoid surface disturbance or occupancy (CSU) within ½-mile buffer of special status raptor nests (excluding bald eagles). The seasonal restriction would be February 1 to July 31, or until young birds have fledged (TLS). The authorized officer, on a case-by-case basis, may grant exceptions to seasonal restrictions.	Same as Alternative A.
Special Status Species – Nongame (Neotropical Migrants)						
Management actions impacting special status neotropical migrants are encompassed in other special status species, wildlife, and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for special status neotropical migrants.						
Special Status Species – Nongame (Mammals)						
4059	BR:1.1 BR:1.18 BR:4.1	No similar action.	Manage an estimated 145,641 acres of public land for potential black-footed ferret reintroduction.	Same as Alternative B.	Habitats managed for reintroductions of black-footed ferrets would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative D.
4060	BR:2.1 BR:3.2 BR:4.1	Prairie dog control within the planning area may be initiated where the following criteria are met: Treatment of prairie dog towns will be considered only if a written request is received from the owner of adjacent property or the grazing lessee. No prairie dog control measures will be allowed on public land in areas of historical black-footed ferret occurrences, a confirmed sign has been recorded within the last 5 years, or if the USFWS determines the town is an essential habitat for the survival of the ferret. No prairie dog control measures will be carried out on prairie dog towns that are more than ½ mile from private lands. Treatment of private land must be done concurrently with treatment of public land.	No prairie dog control will be conducted, except when public health and safety risks warrant control.	Prairie dog control within the planning area may be initiated as follows: The APHIS or their authorized agent carry out prairie dog control actions. No prairie dog control measures will be carried out on prairie dog towns that are more than ½ mile from private land, unless a human health or safety concern is documented, or where resource damage occurs and is documented by the BLM. Treatment of prairie dog towns will be considered only if a written request is received from the owner of adjacent property. The BLM will not conduct treatment unless adjacent private lands are treated concurrently. No treatment would occur in areas identified for black-footed ferret reintroduction, except when public health and safety risks warrant control.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C, except surface-disturbing and disruptive activities should be designed in a manner that avoids prairie dog towns and complexes. Where this is impractical, the disturbance should be located in a manner where it will have the least amount of impact to prairie dogs.
Special Status Species – Nongame (Amphibians)						
Management actions impacting special status amphibians are encompassed in other special status species, wildlife, and biological resources management actions. No additional management actions were identified specifically for special status amphibians.						

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

5000 Heritage and Visual Resources (HR) – Goals and Objectives

GOAL HR:1 Preserve and protect cultural and paleontological resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate use by present and future generations.

OBJECTIVES -

HR:1.1 Develop project or site-specific treatment plans or other protective measures for special areas or cultural resources in areas of high risk for development or at high risk for adverse impacts.

HR:1.2 Consult with Native American tribal governments at the leasing stage for proposed land uses having the potential to impact cultural resources identified as having tribal interests or concerns.

HR:1.3 Develop activity plans for special areas or cultural resources identified as high risk for adverse impacts (e.g., Cedar Ridge).

GOAL HR:2 Reduce imminent threats to cultural and paleontological resources from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses.

OBJECTIVES -

HR:2.1 Establish cultural resource inventory priority areas in the RMP implementation strategy document.

GOAL HR:3 Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cultural and paleontological resources.

OBJECTIVES -

HR:3.1 Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for scientific research of cultural and paleontological resources.

HR:3.2 Improve educational opportunities and public outreach programs.

HR:3.3 Develop and maintain interpretation of cultural and paleontological resources in areas of high public interest and access.

GOAL HR:4 Establish a working relationship with Native American tribes.

OBJECTIVES -

HR:4.1 Maintain proactive consultation with Native Americans, as appropriate, to identify resource types or places that may be impacted by BLM authorizations or actions.

HR:4.2 Maximize opportunities for cooperation with tribal governments for managing cultural resources and public education.

GOAL HR:5 Manage public lands in a manner that will maintain the overall scenic (visual) quality of these lands.

OBJECTIVES -

HR:5.1 Class II: Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change should be low. Management activities should be seen, but not attract attention of the casual observer. The basic elements of form, line color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape should be repeated.

HR:5.2 Class III: Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

HR:5.3 Class IV: Provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the focus of the viewer's attention; however, every attempt should be made to minimize the impacts of these activities through careful location, minimizing disturbance, and repeating elements.

5000 Heritage and Visual Resources (HR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
5001	HR:1.1	Protect cultural sites within the 1,633-acre Notches Dome Archeological District (48NA368) that have been or may be nominated to the National Register so that surface development will not affect those sites (NSO). Surface development proposals within the Notches Dome Archeological District will require an onsite Class III inventory before implementation. This requirement will be voided if the BLM completes a Class III inventory for all land within the archeological district. There is one KGS within the archeological district. Production and development of oil and gas will be the priority within the KGS unless a cultural site is of National Register quality. In that case, the cultural site will be protected. Proposals in the rest of the archeological district will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.				
5002	HR:4.1	Inventory potentially sensitive cultural places identified during Native American consultation independent of specific land-use actions. Apply tools (such as site avoidance, buffer area) to protect sensitive cultural sites, as necessary.				
5003	HR:1.1	NSO on the 534-acre Spanish Diggings prehistoric quarry (48PL48).				
5004	HR:3.2	Develop public outreach and education efforts within the planning area to instill a conservation ethic within the public regarding cultural and paleontological resources.				
5005	HR:5.1 HR:5.2 HR:5.3	Facilitate VRM mitigation in areas that do not meet class objectives as the need or opportunity arises.				
5006	HR:5.1 HR:5.2 HR:5.3	Review, periodically, the visual resources for the planning area.				
5007	HR:5.1 HR:5.2 HR:5.3	VRM classifications only apply to public surface and to federal mineral estate.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

5000 Heritage and Visual Resources (HR) – Cultural						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
5008	HR:1.1	Cultural resource inventories and site evaluations within the planning area are in direct response to specific land-use proposals in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA. Additional inventory is carried out, when resources permit, to comply with Section 110 of the NHPA.	Conduct Class III block surveys on leases, oil and gas units, oil and gas fields, and similar large-scale development areas; otherwise, cultural resource inventories will continue to be done on an individual project basis.	Conduct Class III inventories on APE and buffer zone (minimum 300 feet) around development on a project-by-project basis.	Conduct Class III inventories on APE and buffer zone (minimum 100 feet) around development on a project-by-project basis.	Same as Alternative A, except block inventories would be applied when full field development occurs at a spacing of 80-acres or less.
5009	HR:1.3	**C-5: Protection of Cultural Sites** Sites in this category were identified in decision C-5 of the 1985 RMP (Map 33). Surface development will not be permitted (NSO) on the following sites; they will be assessed for stabilization and management needs (120 acres): 48NA227, 48NA940, 48NA84, and Rock Cairn Trail (South Bighorn Mountains).	NSO onsite and within 300 feet of the following sites: 48NA227, 48NA940, and 48NA84. The restriction on the Rock Cairn Trail in the South Bighorn Mountains is not carried forward (Map 33). Additional sites may be found, which will also be NSO.	NSO onsite and CSU within 300 feet of the following sites: 48NA227, 48NA940, and 48NA84. The restriction on the Rock Cairn Trail in the South Bighorn Mountains is not carried forward (Map 33). Additional sites may be found, which will also be NSO.	NSO on the following sites: 48NA227, 48NA940, and 48NA84. The restriction on the Rock Cairn Trail in the South Bighorn Mountains is not carried forward (Map 33). Additional sites may be found, which will also be NSO.	Same as Alternative C (Map 33).
5010	HR:1.1	No similar action for Pine Ridge.	The minimum cultural resource block inventory size shall be 40 acres in Pine Ridge. Linear inventories shall cover a minimum of 100 feet on either side of centerline.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B, except linear inventories would cover a minimum of 100 feet on either side of surface disturbance.

5000 Heritage and Visual Resources (HR) – Paleontological (see Special Designations: Alcova Fossil Area for additional information on paleontology)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
5011	HR:3.3	No similar action.	Do not develop interpretive facilities.	Identify broad areas containing important paleontological resources and develop interpretive facilities (e.g., signs, kiosks, and interpretive centers) on a case-by-case basis in regional overviews without identifying specific localities.	Develop interpretive facilities (e.g., signs, kiosks, and developed areas) at specific localities with high paleontological values on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative D.
5012	HR:3.1 HR:3.2	Collection of fossils from public lands is allowed with some restrictions, depending on the significance of the fossils. Hobby collection of common invertebrate or plant fossils by the public is allowed in reasonable quantities using hand tools.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Identify and designate hobby collection areas (i.e., areas pre-identified for containing concentrations of common invertebrate and plant fossils and where public fossil collection activities pose no significant threats to paleontological or other resources) for collection of common invertebrate or plant fossils by the public. Manage these areas by restricting all surface, use as necessary, and restricting fossil collection, as necessary.	Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

5000 Heritage and Visual Resources (HR) – Paleontological (see Special Designations: Alcova Fossil Area for additional information on paleontology)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
5013	HR:3.1	Two types of permits are issued. The basic permit is the survey and limited surface collection permit, issued for reconnaissance work and collection of surface finds, with a 1 square meter limit on surface disturbance. If the work will exceed 1 square meter, or requires mechanized equipment, the researcher must apply for an excavation permit. Prior to authorization of an excavation permit, and in some cases for survey permits in MAs, the BLM must prepare an EA of the proposed location.	Apply standard stipulations to all paleontological resource use permits only. Include additional stipulations only if necessary on a case-by-case basis.	Add additional stipulations to paleontological resource use permits to protect other resource values on a case-by-case basis.	Add additional stipulations to all paleontological resource use permits to protect other resource values (e.g., require erosion control and reseeding).	Same as Alternative C.
5014	HR:3.1	Issue permits on demand for paleontological research by qualified paleontologists (current management).	Actively solicit research efforts throughout the planning area to identify, monitor, and gather research data on paleontological resources.	Develop cooperative agreements and partnerships to encourage research.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative C.
5015	HR:1.1 HR:2.1	No similar action.	Proactively identify and designate areas of high paleontological values for management as MAs. As needed, implement NSO, No Surface Disturbance, and minerals withdrawal, as well as acquire neighboring nonfederal parcels, as appropriate, and take other management actions or limit other uses.	Identify areas that contain high paleontological values. Protect those areas from undue degradation by limiting surface-disturbing activities in number and scope as allowable. Designate lands for retention.	Apply standard paleontological mitigation guidelines to all surface-disturbing activities.	Same as Alternative C.
5016	HR:1.1 HR:1.3	Acquire lands that have high resource values.	Retain public lands with significant paleontological values. Identify and acquire non-BLM parcels within the planning area that contain significant paleontological values.	Retain public lands with significant paleontological values. Identify non-BLM parcels that contain significant paleontological values. Include in acquisition efforts prompted by other resources, as applicable.	Retain public lands with significant paleontological values.	Same as Alternative C, except acquisition efforts would be pursued through exchange, purchase, or donation.
5017	HR:1.1 HR:1.3	No similar action.	Identify areas with high paleontological values that are at risk for damage from illegal activities. Increase BLM law enforcement presence in these areas. Post additional signs indicating collection is illegal.	Identify areas with high paleontological values that are at risk for damage from illegal activities. Increase BLM law enforcement presence in these areas.	Identify areas with high paleontological values that are at risk for damage from illegal activities. Monitor yearly.	Same as Alternative C.
5018	HR:2.1	Assess adverse impacts to paleontological resources and apply appropriate mitigation for all surface-disturbing activities.	Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions and monitor surface-disturbing activities for Class 3, 4, and 5 formations (see Probable Fossil Yield Classification in the glossary).	Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions and monitor surface-disturbing activities for Class 4 and 5 formations (see Probable Fossil Yield Classification in the glossary).	Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions for Class 4 and 5 formations (see Probable Fossil Yield Classification in the glossary).	Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions for Class 4 and 5 formations. Monitor during surface-disturbing activities only as appropriate. Apply, as deemed necessary, for Class 3 formations (see Probable Fossil Yield Classification in the glossary).

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

5000 Heritage and Visual Resources (HR) – Visual						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
5019	HR:5.1 HR:5.2 HR:5.3	Visual resource values would continue to be managed under the five VRM classes designated in the 1981 Platte River Resource Area Oil and Gas Programmatic EA, Map 35. Detailed VRM class objectives are located in the glossary under the heading "Visual Resource Management Classes." Manage 109,827 acres of BLM-managed surface and 365,967 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class II. Manage 210,258 acres of BLM-managed surface and 909,283 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class III. Manage 953,543 acres of BLM-managed surface and 3,200,074 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class IV. Class V: Manage 2,074 acres of BLM-managed surface and 6,881 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class V. Note: There are no Class I areas designated in the planning area. Class IV and Class V areas under current management correspond to Class IV in alternatives B through E.	Visual resource values would be managed under the VRM classes as defined in the 2004 Casper Field Office VRM Inventory (Map 36). The foreground/midde ground of NHTs will be managed as Class II until inventories are completed. Trail segments contributing to the overall eligibility that have integrity of setting will be managed as VRM Class II. Where integrity of setting is lacking, the foreground/middle ground of NHTs will be managed as Class III. Manage 408,576 acres of BLM-managed surface and 1,062,550 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class II. Manage 415,458 acres of BLM-managed surface and 1,022,622 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class III. Manage 537,543 acres of BLM-managed surface and 2,572,000 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class IV.	Visual resource values would be managed under the VRM classes defined by Map 37. Changes in the number of acres within each VRM class depict a balance between development activities and protection of visual resources. The foreground/midde ground of NHTs will be managed as Class II until inventories are completed. Trail segments contributing to the overall eligibility that have integrity of setting will be managed asVRM Class II. Where integrity of setting is lacking, the foreground/middle ground of NHTs, will be managed as Class III. Manage 367,151 acres of BLM-managed surface and 816,310 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class II. Manage 433,799 acres of BLM-managed surface and 1,211,145 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class III. Manage 560,627 acres of BLM-managed surface and 2,629,717 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class IV.	Visual resource values would be managed under the VRM classes defined by Map 38. Changes in the number of acres under each VRM class were adjusted to be less restrictive to mineral and renewable energy development. The foreground/midde ground of NHTs will be inventoried. Trail segments contributing to the overall eligibility that have integrity of setting will be managed as the VRM class in which they are located, using BMPs to mitigate proposed visual intrusions. The class objectives will be as defined by the 2004 Casper Field Office VRM Inventory. Manage 205,542 acres of BLM-managed surface and 465,688 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class II. Manage 548,780 acres of BLM-managed surface and 1,518,434 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class III. Manage 607,255 acres of BLM-managed surface and 2,673,050 acres of federal mineral estate as VRM Class IV.	Same as Alternative C (Map 39).

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Goals and Objectives

GOAL LR:1 Manage the acquisition, disposal, withdrawal, and use of public lands to meet the needs of internal and external customers and to preserve important resource values.

OBJECTIVES -

LR:1.1 Develop and maintain a land-ownership pattern that will provide better access for managing and protecting public lands.

LR:1.2 Maximize appropriate disposal actions to help solve problems related to intermixed land-ownership patterns.

LR:1.3 Maintain availability of public lands to meet the habitation, cultivation, trade, mineral development, recreation, and manufacturing needs of external customers and the general public.

LR:1.4 Identify lands for withdrawal to meet federal land-use needs.

GOAL LR:2 Manage suitable public lands for developing renewable energy (e.g., wind and solar).

GOAL LR:3 Manage public lands to meet transportation and ROW needs.

OBJECTIVES -

LR:3.1 Make public lands available to meet the needs of major ROW customers (e.g., an intrastate pipeline).

LR:3.2 Make public lands available to meet the needs for smaller ROW (e.g., roads or pipelines for oil fields).

LR:3.3 Maintain and acquire public access to meet resource management needs.

LR:3.4 Maintain a transportation management system to meet resource management needs.

GOAL LR:4 Manage the use of OHVs in partnership with other land-managing agencies, local governments, communities, and interest groups through a balanced approach, so as to protect public lands and resources while providing opportunities for the safe use and enjoyment of OHVs.

OBJECTIVES -

LR:4.1 Conduct an assessment of current and future OHV demand and plan for and balance the demand for OHV use with other multiple uses (or users) when developing the planning area transportation plan.

LR:4.2 Locate and manage OHV use to conserve soil functionality, vegetative cover, and watershed health. Manage OHV use to minimize the impact to the land while maintaining OHV access.

LR:4.3 Engineer, locate, and relocate roads and trails to accommodate OHV activities while minimizing resource impacts.

LR:4.4 Integrate concepts of habitat connectivity into OHV planning to minimize habitat fragmentation.

LR:4.5 Manage OHV use by type, season, intensity, distribution, and (or) duration to minimize the impact on plant and wildlife habitats. If seasonal closures become appropriate to minimize adverse OHV impact(s) on public lands resources, strive to preserve public access by designating alternative routes.

LR:4.6 Clearly identify route and area designations.

LR:4.7 Maintain an inventory of existing road and trail systems.

GOAL LR:5 Protect public land resources, promote safety for all public land users, and minimize conflicts among OHV users and various other uses of public lands.

OBJECTIVES -

LR:5.1 Utilize high-use areas and special events to maximize the dissemination of responsible-use education materials and concepts to the public.

LR:5.2 Cooperatively develop and improve public outreach programs to promote trail etiquette, environmental ethics, and a responsible-use stewardship ethic (e.g., tread lightly, leave no trace, etc.).

GOAL LR:6 Improve and (or) maintain rangeland health while providing opportunities for livestock grazing to support and sustain local communities.

OBJECTIVES -

LR:6.1 Whenever possible, maintain the opportunity to avoid net loss of AUMs within the planning area, and identify and implement opportunities for vegetation improvements to increase the number of AUMs available for livestock grazing to support and sustain local communities.

LR:6.2 Maximize the most appropriate use of SDWs and other SDW withdrawals.

LR:6.3 Maintain existing desirable rangeland conditions or improve rangeland health utilizing best grazing management practices.

GOAL LR:7 Manage recreation resources on public lands to provide a diverse array of benefits to the public, including economic, environmental, personal, and social benefits.

OBJECTIVES -

LR:7.1 Strive to achieve the objectives as outlined in the matrices for identified SRMAs (see Appendix O).

LR:7.2 Support and collaborate with local governments and service providers in adjoining communities to provide recreational opportunities for visitors and local residents to achieve health and fitness goals and quality-of-life benefits from public lands.

GOAL LR:8 Develop and maintain appropriate recreational facilities, balancing public demand, protection of public land resources, and fiscal responsibility.

OBJECTIVE -

LR:8.1 Manage and maintain recreation sites and facilities to acceptable operational standards.

GOAL LR:9 Issue Special Recreation Permits in an equitable manner for specific recreational uses of public lands and related waters as a means to minimize user conflicts, control visitor use, protect recreation resources, and provide for private and commercial recreation use.

OBJECTIVE -

LR:9.1 Complete processing requirements for requested Special Recreation permits.

GOAL LR:10 Develop and maintain cooperative relationships with national, state, and local recreation providers, tourism entities, and local recreational groups.

OBJECTIVES –

LR:10.1 Emphasize and support collaborative public outreach, awareness events, and programs that promote public service and stewardship.

LR:10.2 Encourage sustainable travel and tourism development with gateway communities and provide community-based conservation support for visitor services.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6001	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	All public lands in Converse, Platte, and Goshen counties have been classified for disposal, disposal with restrictions, or for retention. In Natrona County, only those lands specifically identified as potentially suitable for disposal by sale, exchange, or other means have been classified. The remaining public lands in Natrona County are identified for retention. Lands identified for disposal under Sections 203, 206, and 209 of FLPMA and identified as such in this plan are hereby classified for disposal under Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315f).				
6002	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Means for land disposal include sale, exchange, lease, or conveyance under the R&PP Act, desert land entries, Indian allotments, color of title actions, Carey Act patents, state grants, and airport leases and conveyances.				
6003	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Parcels identified for restricted disposal may be disposed of under the R&PP Act by exchange, may limit the disposal to a particular type of entity capable of preserving the resource values, or may include the use of covenants in the deed or land sale patent to ensure the resource values are protected.				
6004	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Retention lands are intended to remain in public ownership. Public land tracts that are not critical to current management objectives will be disposed of to acquire land in high value areas as exchange opportunities arise. However, retention lands may be disposed of under the R&PP Act or through land exchange to meet public needs or to enhance management of the public lands and resources in these areas. Land sales within retention areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis to meet community expansion or other public needs, or to resolve resource management concerns. Criteria to consider when disposing of retention land by sale include, but are not limited to, lands with trespass where disposal is the best tool to meet management objectives while serving the public interest best. Standard trespass resolution practices will be adhered to, including collection of the BLM's actual cost to resolve the trespass.				
6005	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Exchanges are developed on a case-by-case basis. As such, no quantification of disposal and acquisition acreages can be made before the specific exchange proposal is developed.				
6006	LR:1	Acquisition of lands and interests in lands will be pursued in areas of high recreational or paleontological value, with sensitive cultural resources, areas with important fish and wildlife habitat, and along historic trail segments.				
6007	LR:1.4	Lands revoked from other agency withdrawals will be returned to BLM jurisdiction and will be managed in the same manner as the adjoining public lands.				
6008	LR:1.1	Lands that are reconveyed or acquired would be managed in the same manner as the adjoining public lands.				
6009	LR:2	Any future wind-energy development proposals would be subject to the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States,* ROD (BLM 2005d). Energy corridors located in the planning area and designated in the ROD and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States will be incorporated into the Casper RMP.				
6010	LR:2	Wind and solar energy development on public land is authorized by ROW.				
6011	LR:3.3	Easements will be acquired only from a willing landowner.				
6012	LR:3.3 LR:3.4	Access will be acquired by easements, reciprocal ROW, exchange, purchase, and donation. Cooperative agreements can be used in some instances to provide access to public lands. Where practical, new road construction on federal land will be utilized to avoid the cost of acquisition.				
6013	LR:3.3 LR:3.4	Routing and construction standards will be adjusted based on route analysis and engineering design. Construction of new roads on federal land will be utilized, where practical, to reduce acquisition costs. Once an easement is acquired or a road is constructed on federal land, a ROW grant under Section 507 of the FLPMA will be executed to record the road and commit it to the road maintenance program.				
6014	LR:3.3 LR:3.4	Roads constructed under other initiatives (e.g., oil and gas exploration) will be evaluated for inclusion in the BLM transportation system. Those roads that meet BLM resource program needs will be considered for cooperative development. When such roads are no longer needed for the original purposes, and prior to termination and obliteration of the road, BLM will assess its utility for addition to the BLM transportation system.				
6015	LR:3.3 LR:3.4	All BLM road easements will be maintained to at least minimum BLM roads standards. Where a trail will be included in the transportation system, design and maintenance standards will be developed based on the specific objectives for that trail.				
6016	LR:3.3 LR:3.4	Within the life of the plan, all roads on public land will be inventoried and a transportation plan will be developed to identify roads/trails for closure or maintenance. The plan will include goals, objectives, and maintenance standards for roads/trails to be retained for public use, as well as specific measures to accomplish road closure. Roads/trails that are eroding beyond a reasonable level will be fixed or closed.				
6017	LR:6.1 LR:6.3	Rangeland monitoring will follow the guidelines laid out in the Casper Field Office Monitoring Plan.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6018	LR:6.1 LR:6.3	BLM will keep existing management plans (i.e., AMPs, CRMPs, Activity Plans, etc.) current and will implement new management plans where and when needed.				
6019	LR:6.3	Approximately 10 percent of the allotments in the planning area are evaluated each year.				
6020	LR:6.3	Maintenance feeding of forage will not be authorized on public lands.				
6021	LR:6.3	Emergency feeding will be authorized to prevent livestock from declining in health or condition when unforeseen events limit forage available to them. Emergency feeding will be for short periods while the emergency exists or until the livestock can be moved. Require that feed supplement is "weed-free by process" or "certified weed-free," and that instructions for placement and use are stipulated.				
6022	LR:6.1	Base property locations will be recertified only when transferring, consolidating, or dividing grazing preference. A base property requirement of 90 days will be established for the entire planning area. An exception would be made for existing allotments that historically have had less base property than that necessary to meet a 90-day requirement.				
6023	LR:6.1	Category C allotments will be leased year-round at 100 percent federal range unless information is available to indicate a change in authorized grazing use is needed.				
6024	LR:6.1 LR:6.3	Actual use for all Category I and M allotments will be required.				
6025	LR:6.1 LR:6.3	Water developments will be constructed by BLM or constructed by the lessee to BLM standards. Funding and maintenance responsibilities of the water developments will be determined on a case-by-case basis and detailed in the Cooperative Agreement.				
6026	LR:6.1 LR:6.3	BLM funding of major reconstruction projects will be determined on a case-by-case basis.				
6027	LR:7.1	The entire planning area will remain open to dispersed recreation. The camping limit on public lands is set by BLM policy and is currently limited to 14 days. Emphasis would be placed on providing interpretive and information signs and materials for public land visitors, maintaining existing facilities to a high standard consistent with the recreational setting, and limiting development of additional facilities to those areas where public recreational use of surrounding public lands requires. Work with state, local groups, and adjacent landowners will be conducted to identify and develop recreational trails, both motorized and nonmotorized, when the opportunities presents themselves. SRPs will be allowed for commercial, noncommercial, and competitive events on a case-by-case basis. Cooperation will be maintained with a variety of user groups, especially in the local area, to provide diverse recreational opportunities for enjoyment of public lands. BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Rattlesnake Range and Pine Ridge areas, as well as promote and support recreation-based tourism.				
6028	LR:11.1	SRMAs' status may vary by alternative. Selection of a given SRMA will enact specific management prescriptions. Prescriptions for each SRMA include management objectives, targeted outcomes, and implementation actions. Most of the management prescriptions are derived from existing management plans and are carried forward and updated for this RMP. Recreation Area Management Plans for the SRMAs will be developed or otherwise revised as public demand and management needs dictate.				
6029	LR:7.1	**Seminoe/Alcova National Back Country Byway Special Recreation Management Area Prescriptions:** The Casper Field Office will manage the National Back Country Byway in cooperation with the Rawlins Field Office. Encourage and develop cooperative relationships with volunteer groups, landowners and other land management agencies to facilitate responsible recreational use of the area. Maintain the current signs and interpretation along the byway. Currently existing facilities include directional signs. Improvements along the byway will be preceded by formal site plans and will adhere to guidelines developed for the area in the pending RMP. SRPs will be managed cooperatively with the Rawlins Field Office on a case-by-case basis.				
6030	LR:1.1	**Goldeneye Wildlife and Special Recreation Management Area Prescriptions:** The Casper Field Office will maintain and improve currently existing recreation facilities; wildlife improvement projects will be initiated as opportunities arise. The Casper Field Office also will encourage the development of cooperative management strategies and partnerships. SRPs will be allowed for environmental education and outdoor recreation activities for qualified hunting guides only. Work will be conducted to obtain long-term water rights.				
6031	LR:7.1 LR:7.2	**Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Special Recreation Management Area Prescriptions:** The Casper Field Office will maintain existing facilities and evaluate new developments as demand dictates. The EEA will be managed according to the 2000 Muddy Mountain Recreation Area Management Plan. Easements and exchanges will be negotiated to improve public access and recreation opportunities. Seasonal OHV closures will be continued. Campground and day-use fees will be charged. Cooperative management and agreements for the area will be encouraged. SRPs will be allowed for commercial, noncommercial, and competitive events on a case-by-case basis.				
6032	LR:7.1 LR:7.2	**Middle Fork of the Powder River Special Recreation Management Area Prescriptions:** The Casper Field Office would continue to cooperatively manage the area with BLM's Buffalo and Worland field offices to protect and enhance the recreational opportunities; motorized travel would be limited to designated roads and trails and easements and acquisitions will be pursed. Interpretive and access signs will be maintained and improved to inform and educate the public. Seasonal closures will be carried forward and development activities evaluated with special attention to impacts related to visual and recreation resources. SRPs will be managed cooperatively with the Buffalo and Worland field offices on a case-by-case basis. (Note: The Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA would incorporate decisions related to the South Bighorns ACEC/MA as it overlaps with differing alternatives.)				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6033	LR:7.1	**National Historic Trails Special Recreation Management Area Prescriptions:** Cooperative partnerships with volunteer groups, landowners and other land-management agencies will be encouraged and developed to facilitate management and recreational development. SRPs will be allowed for commercial, noncommercial and competitive events on a case-by-case basis. Travel, other than pedestrian, on actual trail ruts is prohibited. Current facilities, signs, and interpretations along trails will be maintained and enhanced as needed. Cooperative management agreement with the NPS will continue. Surface restrictions and other resource allocation decisions are further outlined in the Special Designations and Other MAs section of this document.				
6034	LR:8.1	**North Platte River Special Recreation Management Area Prescriptions:** Development, livestock grazing, and ROW would be limited. Emphasis would be placed on enhancing recreational benefits and wildlife/fisheries habitats within the selected boundary. Acquisitions and easements will be pursued as opportunities arise to improve public access and recreation opportunities. Due to the ACEC evaluation of the North Platte River, detailed management alternatives are located under the Special Designations and Other MAs section of this document. Management of SRPs would be allowed on a case-by-case basis with current and future commercial-use levels being analyzed in the North Platte River SRMA.				
6035	LR:8.1	**Poison Spider OHV Park (Special Recreation Management Area) Prescriptions:** The area will be open to OHV use. The development of cooperative management strategies with volunteer groups, landowners, and other land-management agencies will be encouraged and maintained. Allowances will be made for competitive and educational OHV SRPs. The area will be expanded as determined by the preferred alternative selection. Existing facilities will be maintained. No overnight camping, fires, and shooting of projectiles will be allowed within the park boundaries. A site plan that incorporates needed upgrades and landscape designs will be developed.				
6036	LR:8.1	**South Bighorns/Red Wall National Back Country Byway Prescriptions:** Cooperative relationships with volunteer groups, landowners, and other land-management agencies will be encouraged and developed to facilitate responsible recreation use of the area. SRPs will be allowed for commercial, noncommercial, and competitive events on a case-by-case basis. The current facilities, signs, and interpretations along the byway and at both Grave Springs and Buffalo Creek campgrounds will be maintained. Improvements along the byway will be preceded by formal site plans and will adhere to other guidelines that may be developed in this RMP.				
6037	LR:7.1	Those areas selected as SRMAs are managed as described in Appendix O, Recreation Management Matrices. Those areas not identified as SRMAs are managed as an ERMA as described in Appendix O.				
6038	LR:9.1	OHV use will be managed in accordance with current guidelines that provide for off-road and off-trail travel up to 300 feet for recreational purposes.				
6039	LR:4.1 LR:4.6 LR:4.7	TMA's are delineated for those areas with an OHV designation of Limited to Designated Roads and Trails, Open, and Closed. Travel management has been addressed at the site–specific planning level for some areas of the field office. These areas are identified in the OHV alternatives and are within the defined TMAs. Transportation and travel management in these areas will be reevaluated for compliance with new BLM policies and to ensure user and program needs are met. Existing transportation plans will remain in effect until the reevaluations are completed. CTTMP will be completed for each TMA within 5 years of signing of the ROD for the RMP Revision. See Appendix R for interim management guidelines.				
6040	LR:7.2	Muscle-powered activities such as hiking, back-packing, and snowshoeing are allowed to occur off existing routes in all OHV use areas except those designated as open.				
6041	LR:4.3 LR:4.6	In areas limited to existing or designated roads and trails, the following is allowed: 1) both motorized and non-motorized transportation on existing and designated roads and trails, unless indicated otherwise at site location; 2) non-motorized cross-country or off-route travel as long as new routes are not created and resource damage does not occur; 3) cross-country or off-route travel by over-snow vehicles when snow cover is sufficient to prevent resource damage; and 4) cross-country or off route travel during hunting season by individuals possessing a valid WGFD disabled hunter permit or disabled hunter companion permit.				
6042	LR:4.3 LR:4.6	In areas open to OHV use, non-motorized transportation is not allowed.				
6043	LR:4.3 LR:4.6	In areas closed to OHV use, the following applies: 1) both motorized and non-motorized transportation along National Historic Trails is not allowed; 2) non-motorized transportation is allowed on other existing trails unless otherwise indicated at the site; and 3) new non-motorized trails will be considered on a case-by-case basis.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Retention of Public Lands						
6044	LR:1.1	Retention – approximately 1,248,068 acres of BLM surface.	Retention – approximately 1,236,083 acres of BLM surface.	Retention – approximately 1,114,064 acres of BLM surface.	Retention – approximately 1,131,290 acres of BLM surface.	Same as Alternative D.
Disposal of Public Lands						
6045	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Dispose of 103,725 acres of public land by sale, exchange, or other means.	Dispose of 109,210 acres of public land by sale, exchange, or other means.	Dispose of 241,364 acres of public land by sale, exchange, or other means.	Dispose of 224,834 acres of public land by sale, exchange, or other means.	224,834 acres of public lands are identified as potentially suitable for disposal. At the implementation stage, site-specific analysis with public participation would be conducted. Based on the analysis and public comments received, a determination will be made on whether disposal of the parcel is in the public's best interest. If it is not in the public's best interest, the parcel will be retained in public ownership.
6046	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Restricted Disposal – dispose of 9,784 acres on a restricted basis.	Restricted Disposal – dispose of 16,344 acres on a restricted basis.	Restricted Disposal – dispose of 6,149 acres on a restricted basis.	Restricted Disposal – dispose of 5,453 acres on a restricted basis.	Same as Alternative D.
6047	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Dispose of lands around communities on a case-by-case basis.	Dispose of lands around communities by sale, exchange, or other means that are critical and suitable to meet community expansion needs. These lands will be identified on a case-by-case basis.	Dispose of lands within a 5-mile buffer of communities by sale, exchange, or other means to meet community expansion needs. Proposals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure compatibility with resources and other land uses. Communities include incorporated and unincorporated cities and towns, as well as other areas of residential development or subdivisions as they exist now or as they develop. Disposal will give first consideration to meet public-purpose-oriented community expansion needs.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative C.
Acquisition of Land – Management actions related to acquisitions can be found under the individual resource headings.						

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Land-Use Authorizations						
6048	LR:1.3	Respond to specific proposals for land-use authorization on a case-by-case basis. Leases and permits will be permitted if the lands are suitable for agricultural development. Lands in the Buffalo Creek area would be available, but only by lease. BLM-administered surface adjacent to big game winter ranges will not be used for agricultural purposes.	Prohibit land-use authorization under FLPMA Section 302(b) leases and permits with the exception of sites required to meet critical management needs.	Allow land-use authorizations under FLPMA Section 302(b) leases and permits to meet public demand. Evaluate on a case-by-case basis as proposals are presented. Potential lease and permit areas may include, but are not limited to the following: • Areas where there are documented or existing trespass facilities that can be resolved by an authorization under this section • Areas along major highways where developments may facilitate public needs • Areas in or adjacent to residential, agricultural, commercial, or industrial developments	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative C.
BLM Withdrawals - Additional BLM withdrawals can be found under the individual resource headings.						
6049	LR:1.4	**Fremont Canyon** The Fremont Canyon C&MU classification (1,261 acres) will be terminated.	**Fremont Canyon** Terminate the existing C&MU classification and pursue a withdrawal on 1,261 acres (same as Alternative A). The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws.	**Fremont Canyon** Terminate the existing C&MU classification on 1,261 acres opening this land to operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	**Fremont Canyon** Same as Alternative C.	**Fremont Canyon** Same as Alternative B.
6050	LR:1.4	**Public Water Reserves** Continue the existing withdrawal on 1,389 acres. The withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws, but not the mining or mineral leasing laws.	**Public Water Reserves** Same as Alternative A.	**Public Water Reserves** Same as Alternative A.	**Public Water Reserves** Revoke the withdrawal on 1,389 acres opening this land to operation of the public land laws.	**Public Water Reserves** Same as Alternative A.
6051	LR:1.4	**Recreation & Public Purposes** Continue the existing segregation on 3,468 acres. These lands are segregated from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws. Lands leased under the R&PP Act are segregated from operation of the mining laws.	**Recreation & Public Purposes** Same as Alternative A.	**Recreation & Public Purposes** Same as Alternative A.	**Recreation & Public Purposes** Terminate the existing segregation on 3,162 acres patented under the R&PP Act opening these lands to operation of the mining laws. Continue the existing segregation of 306 acres of R&PP Act-leased lands. Lands leased under the R&PP Act are segregated from operation of the mining laws.	**Recreation & Public Purposes** Same as Alternative A.
6052	LR:1.4	**Exchange Land** Continue the existing segregation of 9,618 acres. These lands are segregated from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	**Exchange Land** Same as Alternative A.	**Exchange Land** Same as Alternative A.	**Exchange Land** Terminate the existing segregation of 9,618 acres opening these lands to operation of the mining laws authorized November 21, 2000, 43 CFR 3809.2(a).	**Exchange Land** Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6053	LR:1.4	**Sale Land** Continue the existing segregation of 1,219 acres. These lands are segregated from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	**Sale Land** Same as Alternative A.	**Sale Land** Same as Alternative A.	**Sale Land** Terminate the existing segregation of 1,219 acres opening these lands to operation of the mining laws authorized November 21, 2000, 43 CFR 3809.2(a).	**Sale Land** Same as Alternative D.
6054	LR:1.4	**Coal Classification** Continue the existing classification on 417,000 acres. The classification segregates against disposal and nonmetalliferous mineral location.	**Coal Classification** Same as Alternative A.	**Coal Classification** Same as Alternative A.	**Coal Classification** Revoke the existing classification on 417,000 acres, opening this land to disposal and nonmetalliferous mineral location.	**Coal Classification** Same as Alternative D.
Other Agency Withdrawals						
6055	LR:1.4	**Air Navigation Site** Continue the existing withdrawal on 198 acres. These lands are segregated from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	**Air Navigation Site** Same as Alternative A.	**Air Navigation Site** Same as Alternative A.	**Air Navigation Site** Same as Alternative A.	**Air Navigation Site** Same as Alternative A.
6056	SD:1.5	**The Fort Laramie National Historic Site** Continue the existing withdrawal on 792 acres. The withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws including the mining and mineral leasing laws.	**The Fort Laramie National Historic Site** Continue the existing withdrawal on 792 acres and enlarge the withdrawal by 148 acres to 940. acres. The withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws including the mining and mineral leasing laws, as would the enlargement.	**The Fort Laramie National Historic Site** Same as Alternative B.	**The Fort Laramie National Historic Site** Same as Alternative B.	**The Fort Laramie National Historic Site** Same as Alternative B.
6057	LR:1.4	**National Wildlife Refuge** Continue the existing withdrawal on 7,458 acres. These lands are segregated from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	**National Wildlife Refuge** Same as Alternative A.	**National Wildlife Refuge** Same as Alternative A.	**National Wildlife Refuge** Revoke the existing withdrawal on 7,458 acres. Revocation would return jurisdiction to the BLM and open the land to operation of the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws.	**National Wildlife Refuge** Same as Alternative A.
6058	LR:1.4	**Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3** Continue the existing withdrawal on 9,324 acres. These lands are segregated from operation of the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws.	**Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3** Same as Alternative A.	**Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3** Same as Alternative A.	**Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3** Same as Alternative A.	**Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3** Same as Alternative A.
6059	LR:1.4	**National Forest** Continue the existing withdrawal on 81,768 acres.	**National Forest** Same as Alternative A.	**National Forest** Same as Alternative A.	**National Forest** Same as Alternative A.	**National Forest** Same as Alternative A.
6060	LR:1.4	**National Grasslands** Continue the existing withdrawal on 163,238 acres.	**National Grasslands** Same as Alternative A.	**National Grasslands** Same as Alternative A.	**National Grasslands** Same as Alternative A.	**National Grasslands** Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6061	LR:1.4	**Camp Guernsey** Continue the existing withdrawal on 5,620 acres. The existing withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws.	**Camp Guernsey** Continue the existing withdrawal on 5,620 acres and enlarge the withdrawal by 6,230 acres to 11,850 acres. The existing withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws, as would the enlargement.	**Camp Guernsey** Same as Alternative B.	**Camp Guernsey** Same as Alternative A.	**Camp Guernsey** Same as Alternative B.
6062	LR:1.4	**Reclamation** Continue the existing withdrawals on 18,078 acres. The existing withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws, including the metalliferous mining laws.	**Reclamation** Same as Alternative A.	**Reclamation** Same as Alternative A.	**Reclamation** Same as Alternative A.	**Reclamation** Same as Alternative A.
6063	LR:1.4	**Spook Site Uranium Mill Tailings** Continue the existing withdrawal on 90 acres. The withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws including the mining laws, and restricts mineral leasing.	**Spook Site Uranium Mill Tailings** Same as Alternative A.	**Spook Site Uranium Mill Tailings** Same as Alternative A.	**Spook Site Uranium Mill Tailings** Same as Alternative A.	**Spook Site Uranium Mill Tailings** Same as Alternative A.
6064	LR:1.4	**UMETCO Gas Hills Uranium Mill Tailings** No similar action.	**UMETCO Gas Hills Uranium Mill Tailings** A withdrawal on 987 acres would be pursued. The withdrawal would segregate from operation of the public land laws including the mining laws, and would restrict mineral leasing.	**UMETCO Gas Hills Uranium Mill Tailings** Same as Alternative B.	**UMETCO Gas Hills Uranium Mill Tailings** Same as Alternative B.	**UMETCO Gas Hills Uranium Mill Tailings** Same as Alternative B.
6065	LR:1.4	**Power Site** Continue the existing withdrawal on 29 acres. The withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws, but not the mining or mineral leasing laws.	**Power Site** Same as Alternative A.	**Power Site** Same as Alternative A.	**Power Site** Same as Alternative A.	**Power Site** Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Renewable Energy						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6066	LR:2	No specific current management action exists. Respond to specific proposals for renewable energy development on a case-by case-basis.	Renewable wind-energy development would be allowed in areas identified as having outstanding/superb potential (also known as power classes 6 and 7). Development outside those areas would not be allowed. Solar-energy development would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Outstanding/superb potential areas (power classes 6 and 7), where wind development would be allowed contain 146,129 acres of public surface. Avoidance and exclusion areas to be implemented under this alternative are the areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses (see Biological Resources and Special Designations and Other MAs). Exclusion areas for renewable wind energy development contain 89,356 acres of public surface. Renewable wind energy development avoidance areas comprise 29,768 acres of public surface.	Renewable wind-energy development would be allowed in areas identified as having outstanding/superb (power classes 6 and 7) or fair/good/excellent (power classes 3, 4, and 5) Potential. Solar-energy development would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Outstanding/superb (power classes 6 and 7) and fair/good/excellent (power classes 3, 4 and 5) potential areas where wind development would be allowed are estimated to contain 1,145,597 acres of public surface. Avoidance and exclusion areas to be implemented under this alternative are the areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses (see Biological Resources and Special Designations and Other MAs). Exclusion areas for renewable wind energy development contain 561,750 acres of public surface. Renewable wind energy development avoidance areas comprise 276,287 acres of public surface.	Actively market areas identified as having potential for renewable energy to prospective developers. Under this alternative, any area with fair/good/excellent (power classes 3,4 and 5) or better potential for wind-energy development would be included (1,145,597 public surface acres). The acreage identified for Alternative C applies to this alternative as well. Avoidance and exclusion areas to be implemented under this alternative are the areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses (see Biological Resources and Special Designations and Other MAs). Exclusion areas for renewable wind energy development contain 181,606 acres of public surface. Renewable wind energy development avoidance areas comprise 422,761 acres of public surface.	Same as Alternative C except exclusion areas for renewable wind energy development contain 363,578 acres of public surface, and wind energy development avoidance areas comprise 458,006 acres of public surface.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Rights-of-Way (ROW) and Corridors						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Corridors						
6067	LR:3.1	**Existing Corridors** The Oregon Trail corridor, four existing corridors, and the new Lost Cabin-Arminto Road corridor will be designated in accordance with 43 CFR 2806. Except for the new Oregon Trail location, each designation will include the same types of facilities that are present within the corridor. The corridors are as follows: • Lost Cabin-Arminto Road • Oregon Trail (Segments A, B, and C) • Poison Spider/Gas Hills Road • U.S. Highway 20-26 • Wyoming Highway 259/U.S. 87 • Wyoming Highway 387. These existing designated ROW corridors impact federal surface only, as listed in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative A. The corridors include 351,024 acres, of which 94,584 acres are federal surface.	**Existing Corridors** These existing corridors are the preferred locations for adjacent placement of future ROW. Continue the designated corridors, except as noted for the Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A, described in Alternative A. The corridors include 333,971 acres, of which 89,130 acres are federal surface. See Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative B, for details.	**Existing Corridors** Maintain all currently designated corridors as described in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative C, but remove all special restrictions that apply to types of use/facilities on the corridors, except as noted for the Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A. The corridors include 351,024 acres, of which 94,584 acres are federal surface. The widths/size of designated corridors will not change under this alternative.	**Existing Corridors** Remove all corridor designations (except as noted for the Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A) and evaluate all future ROW development on a case-by-case basis. Under this alternative, no federal acreage would be included in a designated corridor.	**Existing Corridors** Same as Alternative C, except special restrictions applying to types of use/facilities on the corridors described in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative E, would be removed on a case-by-case basis.
6068	LR:3.1	**Existing Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A** The existing Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A designation would be continued.	**Existing Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A** Remove the Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A designation and restrict future use in that corridor to operation and maintenance of existing facilities. Designate a corridor to replace the Oregon Trail Road Corridor, Segment A to be called the Cabin Creek Corridor. (33,598 acres of which 21,743 acres are federal surface). See Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative B, for details.	**Existing Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A** Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A would be maintained to allow for additional ROW facilities provided they are subsurface, surface, or low profile developments. ROW facilities that introduce visual intrusions on the skyline along the corridor will not be allowed.	**Existing Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A** The corridor designation for the Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A would be removed, and all future ROW development would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.	**Existing Oregon Trail Road ROW Corridor, Segment A** Same as Alternative C, except (1) special restrictions applying to types of use/facilities on the corridors would be removed on a case-by-case basis, and (2) a new corridor, to be called the Cabin Creek Corridor, would be designated. See Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative E, for details.
6069	LR:3.1	**Future Corridor Adjustments and New Corridor Designations** Future corridor adjustments and new corridor designations will be made only when facility placement within an existing designated corridor is incompatible, unfeasible, or impractical and when the environmental consequences can be adequately mitigated. Problems of technical compatibility between facilities and spacing of facilities in corridors will be solved on a case-by-case basis.	**Future Corridor Adjustments and New Corridor Designations** Future corridor adjustments and new corridor designations will be made only when facility placement within an existing designated corridor is incompatible, unfeasible, or impractical and when the environmental consequences can be adequately mitigated. Problems of technical compatibility between facilities and spacing of facilities in corridors will be solved on a case-by-case basis.	**Future Corridor Adjustments and New Corridor Designations** Same as Alternative B.	**Future Corridor Adjustments and New Corridor Designations** No future corridor designations would be made.	**Future Corridor Adjustments and New Corridor Designations** Same as Alternative B, except special restrictions applying to types of use/facilities on the corridors would be removed on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Rights-of-Way (ROW) and Corridors						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Right-of-Way Use Areas						
6070	LR:3.1	The Alcova Area Communication Site window would continue. This communication site window designates three sites on public lands that are preferred locations for adjacent placement of future communication site ROW as described in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative A. Proposed communication site facilities should be designed for compatibility with existing facilities at these three sites. The designation of these communication site windows (ROW use areas) did not specify a boundary or buffer. One of the sites contains three users with their own buildings and facilities, contained within an area less than 3 acres. Under current guidance philosophy, it is estimated that an area between 5 and 10 acres per window is a more than sufficient area within which to address facility compatibility issues during project design.	In addition to continuing the existing Alcova Area Communication Site window (which contains three sites described in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative B), five new communication site windows (ROW use areas) will be designated in accordance with 43 CFR 2806. These new communication site windows will designate the five sites on public land listed in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative B. These communication site windows are the required locations for adjacent placement of future communication site ROWs. Proposed communication site facilities should be designed for compatibility with existing facilities located in these sites. Communication sites outside these six windows (eight sites) will not be allowed. The communication site windows will be called by the following names: • Alcova Area Communication Site • Twenty-Mile Hill Communication Site • Arminto Communication Site • Maverick Butte Communication Site • Hell's Half-Acre Communication Site • Dry Creek Road Communication Site. Under this alternative, the estimated acreage per window is the same as described in Alternative A.	Maintain the communication site window (ROW use area) designations as described in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative C, as the preferred locations for adjacent placement of future communication site ROW. Proposed communication site facilities should be designed for compatibility with existing facilities at these three sites. Evaluate all future communication site ROW on a case-by-case basis.	Remove all communication site window (ROW use area) designations and evaluate all future communication site ROW on a case-by-case basis. Under this alternative, no federal acreage would be included in a designated ROW corridor use area (communication site window).	Same as Alternative C, except in addition to continuing the existing Alcova Area Communication Site window (which contains three sites described in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative E), five new communication site windows (ROW use areas) will be designated in accordance with 43 CFR 2806. These new communication site windows will designate the five sites on public land described in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative E. These communication site windows are the preferred locations for adjacent placement of future communication site ROW. Proposed communication site facilities should be designed for compatibility with existing facilities located at these sites. The communication site windows will be called by these names: • Alcova Area Communication Site • Twenty-Mile Hill Communication Site • Arminto Communication Site • Maverick Butte Communication Site • Hell's Half-Acre Communication Site • Dry Creek Road Communication Site.
Avoidance and Exclusion Areas						
6071	LR:3.2	Restrictions on placement of ROW would continue. Exclusion areas for ROW contain 208,664 acres of public land. ROW avoidance areas comprise 723,619 acres of public land. Details on the existing restrictions are in Appendix W, Table 1, Alternative A.	The existing restrictions on placement of ROW will not be carried forward. The ROW avoidance and exclusionary areas to be implemented under this alternative are the areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses (see Biological Resources and Special Designations and Other MAs). Exclusion areas for ROWs contain 1,099,606 acres of public land. ROW avoidance areas comprise 167,379 acres of public land.	The existing restrictions on placement of ROW will not be carried forward. The ROW avoidance and exclusionary areas to be implemented under this alternative are the areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses (see Biological Resources and Special Designations and Other MAs). Exclusion areas for ROWs contain 676,193 acres of public land. ROW avoidance areas comprise 311,758 acres of public land. These areas are shown on Map 48.	The existing restrictions on placement of ROW will not be carried forward. The ROW avoidance and exclusionary areas to be implemented under this alternative are the areas identified as necessary for the protection of specific resource values or uses (e.g., see Biological Resources and Special Designations and Other MAs). Exclusion areas for ROWs contain 238,013 acres of public land. ROW avoidance areas comprise 489,922 acres of public land.	The existing restrictions on placement of ROW will not be carried forward. Exclusion areas for ROW contain 442,040 acres of public land. ROW avoidance areas comprise 539,799 acres of public land.
Rights-of-Way						
6072	LR:3.2	When placement of a major facility within a designated corridor is not possible, and for smaller ROW facilities, placement will be adjacent to existing facilities or disturbances. Cross-country ROW placements will be allowed only when placement in a designated corridor or adjacent to an existing facility is not practical or feasible (from the ROD, RMU14, March 8, 2004 version).	Limit smaller ROW to existing designated corridors or ROW use areas and allow no cross-country ROW alignment.	Limit placement of smaller ROW facilities to be adjacent to existing facilities or disturbances. Cross-country ROW placement will be allowed only when placement in a designated corridor or adjacent to an existing facility is not practical or feasible.	Consider smaller ROW on a case-by-case basis with no "corridor" alignment or site location restrictions.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Transportation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6073	LR:1.1	Pursue acquisition of 16 easements for access on approximately 36 miles of private land.	Same as Alternative A.	Pursue acquisition of eight easements for access on approximately 25 miles of private land.	Pursue acquisition of easements only where needed to meet critical resource needs. Critical resource needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis and could include lack of access to large blocks of inaccessible public land where public demand for such access is strongly expressed on a regular basis, or where legal access restricts or prohibits development of facilities that are deemed necessary to meet growing public demand, such as additional campgrounds in highly used areas.	Negotiate and acquire easements to public lands where legal access is needed for resource management and public access purposes. This would be an ongoing effort for the life of the RMP. Access needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Off-highway Vehicles (OHVs) and Travel Management Areas (TMAs)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Limited to Existing Roads and Trails						
6074	LR:4.2 LR:4.3 LR:4.7 LR:5.2	On the majority of the planning area, OHV use is limited to existing roads and trails. OHVs are limited to existing roads and trails (approximately 1,311,715 acres).	OHVs are limited to existing roads and trails (approximately 909,651 acres). Transportation planning will be ongoing: • Unauthorized roads/trails that are developed during the life of this plan will be closed, barricaded (if necessary), and signed accordingly. • Exiting roads and trails that are determined by resource specialists to be unduly detrimental to other resource values or pose a safety risk will be rerouted or closed, whichever is most prudent. • Authorized engineered roads may be incorporated into the existing road network if they provide additional public access or a reliable alternative to less-reliable roads/trails; otherwise, these roads will be rehabilitated and closed after use. No similar action.	OHVs are limited to existing roads and trails (approximately 1,162,113 acres). Transportation planning will be ongoing: Same as Alternative B Same as Alternative B Same as Alternative B Allow for special permits for disabled individuals within areas that are limited to existing roads and trails.	Limited to existing roads and trails (approximately 1,292,630 acres). Same as Alternative C.	OHVs are limited to existing roads and trails (approximately 1,162,244 acres). Transportation planning will be ongoing: • Off-road travel will be allowed up to 300 feet from roads for camping, recovering game animals, collecting fire wood, picnicking, or other uses that do not require specific authorizations or permits as long as resource damage does not occur or new routes are not created. • Other necessary tasks that require ORV travel may be allowed, as long as resource damage does not occur or new routes are not created. These tasks include, but are not limited to, such activities as geophysical exploration, maintaining range improvements, animal husbandry activities by the grazing lessee and his or her agents, and surveying ROW or other work-related tasks authorized by, or which lead to the issuance, of a permit or authorization. The authorized officer may allow necessary tasks without issuance of a formal permit.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Off-highway Vehicles (OHVs) and Travel Management Areas (TMAs)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Limited to Designated Roads and Trails						
6075	LR:4.1 LR:4.2 LR:4.3 LR:4.4 LR:4.5 LR:4.6 LR:4.7 LR:5.3 LR:5.2	OHVs limited to designated roads and trails (47,014 acres in the Muddy Mountain EEA, Red Wall, Goldeneye, Sand Hills [formerly Casper Sand Dunes], Jackson Canyon, and along the North Platte River). Red Wall: Transportation plan not completed; OHVs may be used in the Red Wall area only on designated roads and vehicle routes. The Red Wall area will be signed accordingly. Jackson Canyon: Transportation plan not completed; OHV use will be allowed only on designated roads and only from April 1 to October 31. There will be no increase or improvement in roads or legal access. Sand Hills (formerly Casper Sand Dunes), northeast of Casper: Transportation plan not completed; OHV use will be confined to existing roads and trails during big game hunting seasons and on designated roads and trails the rest of the year. The North Platte River (Trappers Route): Transportation plan not completed; OHV use is limited to designated roads and vehicle routes for public land between Alcova and Casper. All roads will be designated for OHV use.	OHV travel within areas containing sensitive resources, such as erosive soils, big game winter range, riparian areas, and developed recreation sites would be limited to designated roads and trails and (or) seasonally closed (425,657 acres). The transportation plans for areas that are limited to designated roads and trails during the RMP will be completed within 5 years of the ROD. The transportation plans would • Include at least one or a combination of two-track trails, designated OHV trails, and BLM-administered roads • Not affect valid existing rights • Limit stream and riparian crossings • Upgrade, reroute, or close roads and trails that cause excessive erosion • Address seasonal closures • Retain existing roads that provide access to commercial forest and woodlands • Sign all closed roads (all other roads/trails would be available for public use) • Carry forward the seasonal restriction for Jackson Canyon.	OHV travel within core areas containing sensitive resources, such as erosive soils, big game winter range, riparian areas, and developed recreation sites would be limited to designated roads and trails and (or) closed or seasonally closed (191,236 acres). Same as Alternative B.	Limited to designated roads and trails (66,001 acres in the Muddy Mountain EEA, Goldeneye, Sand Hills, Red Wall, Jackson Canyon, Middle Fork SRMA, and along the North Platte River). Transportation plans will be completed within 5 years of the ROD. The transportation plans will be completed the same as Alternative B, except for the following: • Sand Hills would be limited to designated roads and trails year-round. The seasonal restriction would not be carried forward. • The prescription to designate all existing roads as open for OHV use along the North Platte River would not be carried forward. • The Alcova Fossil Area will be restricted to designated roads and trails until an inventory can be completed. Areas determined to be sensitive would be closed to OHV use.	Motor vehicle travel in the following areas would be limited to a designated network of roads and trails (196,824 acres): • Sand Hills • Jackson Canyon • North Platte River • Alcova Fossil MA • South Bighorns/Red Wall • Bates Hole. To determine the authorized road network for the area, the Casper Field Office will complete a Transportation Plan within 5 years of completing this RMP. • Off-road travel will be allowed up to 300 feet from roads for camping, recovering game animals, collecting fire wood, picnicking, or other uses that do not require specific authorizations or permits as long as resource damage does not occur. • Other necessary tasks that require ORV travel may be allowed, as long as resource damage does not occur or new routes are not created. These tasks include, but are not limited to, such activities as geophysical exploration, maintaining range improvements, animal husbandry activities by the grazing lessee and his or her agents, and surveying ROW or other work-related tasks authorized by, or which lead to, the issuance of a permit or authorization. The authorized officer may allow necessary tasks without issuance of a formal permit. • Designation is effective of RMP approval/Federal Register notice. • New roads and trails would be approved on a case-by-case basis until completion of the Casper Field Office Transportation Plan.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Off-highway Vehicles (OHVs) and Travel Management Areas (TMAs)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6076	LR:4.3 LR:4.6 LR:4.7 LR:5.2	Muddy Mountain EEA: Transportation plan completed. Current management allows for 4-½ miles of marked snowmobile trails and designation of cross-country skiing areas (snowmobile closures). Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area: Transportation plan completed. OHV travel in the area is limited to the designated access road only.	Completed transportation plans for areas currently limited to designated roads and trails would be carried forward into the revised RMP with the following changes: • Recreational ATV use would not be allowed within the boundaries of both Rim and Lodgepole campgrounds. • Snowmobile trails on Muddy Mountain would be limited to existing designated snowmobile trails; no additional trails would be permitted.	Same as Alternative B, except the BLM would also develop ATV and motorcycle trails within the Muddy Mountain EEA. The development of ATV trails would be limited to forest management roads within the EEA south and west of the developed area.	Same as Alternative B, except for the following: • The BLM would develop ATV and motorcycle trails within the Muddy Mountain EEA, near Bolten EEA, and east of Casper. Existing trails would be used for this purpose whenever feasible. • The development of snowmobile trails would be limited to forest management roads within the Muddy Mountain EEA south and west of the developed area. • Allow for special permits for disabled individuals within limited to existing category as authorized on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A with one addition: Temporary roads and trails may be developed for forest management and would be closed and reclaimed when no longer needed.
Designated Open to OHV						
6077	LR:4.1 LR:4.6 LR:5.1 LR:5.2	Poison Spider OHV Park (187 acres) would be designated as open to OHV use (ATV, motorcycles, and 4x4 vehicles).	The Poison Spider OHV Park would be designated as open to OHV use and expanded to include an additional 55 acres (for a total of 242 acres). No additional OHV parks within the Casper planning area.	The Poison Spider OHV Park would be designated as open to OHV use and expanded to include an additional 98 acres (for a total of 285 acres). Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative C. Allow for the development of an additional OHV park that would be open to OHV use with an open designation or allow unlimited OHV use after thorough evaluation. No suitable area is currently identified; the Casper Field Office would consider previously disturbed areas as possible locations (this is not an absolute, but may be identified during the life of the plan).	The Poison Spider OHV Park would be open to OHV use. It would be expanded to include an additional 98 acres (for a total of 285 acres). An additional OHV park would be considered. The area would be open to all motor vehicles.
Designated Closed to OHV						
6078	LR:4.3 LR:5.3 LR:5.2	Designate 2,661 acres in the following areas closed to OHV use: • Natural area of the Muddy Mountain EEA (including snowmobile use) • Historic trail sites along the Oregon Trail • Historic trail sites along the Bozeman Trail.	Designate 26,027 acres in the following areas closed to OHV use: • Natural Area of the Muddy Mountain EEA (including snowmobile use) • Historic trail sites along the Oregon Trail • Historic trail sites along the Bozeman Trail • Alcova Fossil Area ACEC. • Sand Hills MA • All historic trails ruts on BLM-administered public lands (historic trails will be inventoried and closed to OHV use as they are identified as having integrity of trail).	Designate 7,943 acres in the following acres closed to OHV use: • Natural area of the Muddy Mountain EEA (including snowmobile use) • Historic trail sites along the Oregon Trail • Historic trail sites along the Bozeman Trail • Alcova Fossil Area ACEC • All historic trail ruts on BLM-administered public lands (historic trails will be inventoried and closed to OHV use as they are identified as having integrity of trail).	Designate 2,661 acres in the following areas closed to OHV use: • Natural area of the Muddy Mountain EEA (including snowmobile use) • Historic trail sites along the Oregon Trail • Historic trail sites along the Bozeman Trail • Areas within the Alcova Fossil Area MA determined to be sensitive to damage will be identified and closed to OHV use.	2,224 designated acres in the following areas will be closed to OHV use: • Natural area of the Muddy Mountain EEA (including snowmobile use) • Historic trail sites along the Oregon Trail, except the Ryan Hill and Bessemer Bend sites which will be designated as limited to designated roads and trails. • Historic trail sites along the Bozeman Trail • All historic trail ruts on BLM-administered public lands (historic trails will be inventoried and closed to OHV use as they are identified as having integrity of trail).

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Livestock Grazing						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6079	LR:6.1 LR:6.3	Grazing Lease Administration Leases will be revised as necessary to accommodate increases in AUMs from actual increase in forage. Future upward or downward changes may be allocated to livestock, wildlife, watershed, or a combination of these land uses.	Grazing leases will be adjusted where monitoring, field observations, or other data indicate changes, either increases or decreases, in forage allocation are needed due to more intense management, changes in kind or class of livestock, allocation of forage for other resource uses, availability and/or suitability of forage, as well as other factors.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Grazing leases will be adjusted where an evaluation of monitoring, field observations, or other data indicate changes, and either increases or decreases, in forage allocation are needed or when necessary or required by other applicable law or regulation.
6080	LR:6.1 LR:6.3	Conversions in kinds of livestock and changes in season of use are handled on a case-by-case basis. Adjustments to accurately reflect the kind of livestock use being made on public land is not being pursued actively.	Conversions in kinds of livestock and changes in season of use will be considered on a case-by-case basis through an environmental analysis. Such changes will be consistent with wildlife, watershed, riparian, special status species, and vegetation objectives. Grazing leases will be modified when necessary to accurately reflect the kind of livestock use being made on public land in all allotments.	Same as Alternative B, except emphasis would be placed on Category I and M allotments.	Same as Alternative B, except emphasis would be placed on Category I allotments.	Conversions in kinds of livestock and changes in season of use will be considered on a case-by-case basis through an environmental analysis. Such changes will be consistent with rangeland health objectives. Grazing leases would be adjusted to accurately reflect the kind of livestock use on public land in all allotments.
6081	LR:6.3	Prevent overgrazing and downward trend all leases; emphasis will be on Category I and M allotments. This will be done with no adverse impacts to wildlife and watershed values. The preferred alternatives will be ones that are beneficial to wildlife and watershed values.	Prevent improper grazing and downward trend in all grazing allotments; emphasis will be on all grazing allotments.	Same as Alternative B, except emphasis will be on high priority category allotments (i.e., categories I and M).	Same as Alternative B, except emphasis will be on Category I allotments.	Prevent downward trend in all grazing allotments.
6082	LR:6.1	Approximately 1,355,561acres will continue to be open to livestock grazing. 6,016 acres would continue to be not available for livestock grazing (see Appendix H).	Same as Alternative A, except additional areas may be not available for livestock grazing for the protection and management of specific resource values or uses; e.g., sensitive status species on the campgrounds and additional OHV parks.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
6083	LR:6.3	Currently, grazing allotments are evaluated to determine if they are meeting the standards for healthy rangelands. Rangeland health evaluations include a determination of soil erosion condition and stability.	Manage livestock grazing to maintain a protective cover of vegetation and litter on all BLM-administered surface in the planning area. All grazing allotments will be monitored every year. Forage utilization will be limited to 40 percent of the current year's production. Management techniques may include herding, fencing, rotational grazing, or limiting season of use to meet the target utilization levels.	Manage livestock grazing to maintain a protective cover of vegetation and litter with emphasis on the condition of allotments with acreages of highly erosive soils. Target forage utilization levels will be established for highly erosive soils and grazing management objectives will be developed to meet those objectives. Management techniques may include herding, fencing, rotational grazing, or limiting season of use to meet the target utilization levels on highly erosive soils.	Place no additional restrictions on livestock grazing in the planning area.	Same as Alternative C.
6084	LR:6.2	**Stock Driveways (SDWs)** SDWs will be utilized to the fullest extent possible and standards will be developed for livestock use other than trailing. Plan Change 34 developed these standards. Actions will be taken to cancel SDW withdrawals for trails that are not active and to fence areas into adjacent allotments and issue grazing leases.	**Stock Driveways (SDWs)** Do not revoke any SDW withdrawals. Retain these areas for this specific use regardless of where they are located or how often they are used for trailing livestock.	**Stock Driveways (SDWs)** Revoke SDW withdrawals for those trails that are no longer active and incorporate these lands into adjacent allotments (46,051 acres). Offer grazing leases to the respective grazing lessees. Retain all remaining SDW lands for trail use (55,680 acres).	**Stock Driveways (SDWs)** Revoke all SDW withdrawals and discontinue trail use (approximately 101,731 acres and 12,725 AUMs). Lease unfenced SDW to adjacent grazing lessees (approximately 58,648 acres and 6,500 AUMs). Retain fenced corridors and leave open or unleased to facilitate management objectives in other grazing allotments (approximately 43,083 acres and 6,225 AUMs).	**Stock Driveways (SDWs)** Review and recommend revocation of withdrawals for those trails that are no longer active and incorporate these lands into adjacent allotments (46,051 acres). Offer grazing leases to the respective grazing lessees. Retain all remaining SDW lands for trail use (55,680 acres).

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Livestock Grazing						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6085	LR:6.2	Lightly used trails that are not fenced will be leased to grazing lessee who occupies the adjoining area. AUMs will be reserved for trailing use.	Do not lease infrequently or occasionally used SDWs that currently are unfenced to grazing lessees. Do not fence these lands, but reserve AUMs for trail use.	Fence infrequently or occasionally used SDWs that are currently unfenced and unleased to create corridors for trailing livestock or other management objectives. AUMs on these lands will be reserved for trailing livestock or other resource uses.	Lease unfenced SDWs that are occasionally used for trailing to those grazing lessees whose allotments adjoin the SDWs. Reserve 30 percent of the AUMs for trail use and lease the remaining AUMs to the respective grazing lessees.	Same as Alternative D.
6086	LR:6.2	Trail use, after-trail use, and other trail use on SDWs would be managed in accordance with the standards outlined in Appendix T , Stock Driveway Management Standards – Trail Use.	Current guidelines for administrating SDWs as identified in Appendix T will be modified. After-trail use will no longer be authorized. If additional forage is available on fenced SDWs (reserve allotments), it will be reserved to meet other management objectives, which may include rest following wildfire, prescribed fire, or chemical treatments. Use will follow established criteria and a plan of development.	Current guidelines for administering SDWs as identified in Appendix T for administering SDWs will be modified. After-trail use will no longer be authorized. All forage will be reserved for trail use.	Same as Alternative A. (Current-grazing guidelines as identified in Appendix T for administering SDWs will be carried forward into new plan.)	Same as Alternative D, except Stock Driveway Management Standards – Trail Use would be modified to provide for using trails during periods outside of normal trailing.
6087	LR:6.1	The Casper Field Office has developed guidelines for authorizing yearling conversions.	Do not authorize yearling conversions and terminate existing agreements.	Continue to authorize yearling conversions using existing Casper Field Office criteria. Yearling conversions will be consistent with management objectives and wildlife, watershed, riparian, vegetative values, and other resource values.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative C.
6088	LR:6.3	Placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.	Do not allow placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements for livestock within ½ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless NEPA analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values would not be adversely impacted. Require that forage supplements be "certified weed-free."	Do not allow placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements for livestock within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, and riparian areas, unless written analysis shows that watershed, riparian, wetland, wildlife, and vegetative values would not be adversely impacted. Require that forage supplements be "certified weed-free."	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6089	LR:7.1 LR:7.2	Maintain the following four SRMAs as described in Appendix O: 1. Muddy Mountain EEA 2. Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area 3. Middle Fork SRMA (cooperatively with the Buffalo and Worland field offices) 4. North Platte River.* *See Special Designations and Other MAs for detailed management actions for the North Platte River.	Maintain the following two SRMAs as described in Appendix O: 1. Muddy Mountain EEA 2. Middle Fork SRMA (cooperatively with the Buffalo and Worland field offices) Add the following SRMA: 1. Poison Spider OHV Park expanded by 55 acres (for a total of 242 acres). Drop the following SRMA: 1. Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area. The North Platte River* would be managed as an ACEC. Recreation management would be included in the ACEC management plan. *See Special Designations and Other MAs for detailed management actions for the North Platte River.	Maintain the following three SRMAs as described in Appendix O: 1. Muddy Mountain EEA 2. Middle Fork SRMA (cooperatively with the Buffalo and Worland field offices 3. Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Management Area Add the following two SRMAs: 1. Poison Spider OHV Park expanded by 98 acres (285 acres). 2. NHTs. The North Platte River* would be managed as an ACEC between Pathfinder Dam and the Dave Johnston Power Plant. Recreation management would be included in the ACEC management plan. *See Special Designations and Other MAs for detailed management actions for the North Platte River and NHTs.	Maintain the following four SRMAs as described in Appendix O: 1. Muddy Mountain EEA 2. Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area 3. Middle Fork SRMA (Cooperatively with the Buffalo and Worland field offices) 4. North Platte River* between Pathfinder Dam and Robertson Road in Casper Add the following four SRMAs: 1. Poison Spider OHV Park expanded by 98 acres (for a total of 285 acres) 2. South Bighorns/Red Wall National Back Country Byway 3. Seminoe/Alcova National Back Country Byway (cooperatively with the Rawlins Field Office) 4. NHTs. *See Special Designations and Other MAs for detailed management actions for the North Platte River, NHTs, and National Back Country Byways.	Manage the following six SRMAs as described in Appendix O: 1. Muddy Mountain EEA 2. Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area 3. Middle Fork SRMA (cooperatively with Buffalo and Worland field offices) 4. North Platte River* between Pathfinder Dam and the Natrona/Converse county line 5. Poison Spider OHV Park expanded by 98 acres (for a total of 285 acres) 6. NHTs *See Special Designations and Other MAs for detailed management actions for the North Platte River and NHTs.
6090	LR:7.1	The SRMA for the Muddy Mountain EEA would continue to be managed in accordance with the 1977 Muddy Mountain Activity Plan as amended by the 2000 Muddy Mountain EEA RAMP. These plans specify NSO within the EEA, except this restriction does not apply to forest and recreation management practices.	The 1977 Muddy Mountain Activity Plan would not be carried forward. The SRMA for the Muddy Mountain EEA would continue to be managed in accordance with the 2000 RAMP, except the area would be administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
6091	LR:1.1 LR:7.1	Muddy Mountain EEA A protective withdrawal will be established on the Muddy Mountain EEA on 1,027 acres. The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws. The existing C&MU classification will be terminated.	Muddy Mountain EEA Same as Alternative A.	Muddy Mountain EEA Same as Alternative A.	Muddy Mountain EEA Terminate the existing C&MU classification on 1,027 acres, opening this land to operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	Muddy Mountain EEA Same as Alternative A.
6092	LR:7.1	The SRMA for the Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area would continue to be managed in accordance with the 1978 RAMP, which specifies the following: 1. NSO within the boundary, unless the development facilitates recreation use or enhances wildlife. 2. NSO on BLM-administered surface in Section 7 and 8, T. 35 N., R. 82 3. NSO within ½ mile of the shoreline of the Goldeneye Reservoir 4. NSO within 600 feet of the Middle Fork of Casper Creek or its tributaries.	The SRMA for the Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area would be dropped and the area managed for wildlife with the following NSO. NSO within the boundary, unless the development facilitates recreation use or enhances wildlife.	Same as Alternative B.	The SRMA for the Goldeneye Wildlife and Recreation Area would continue. Only one of the NSOs identified in the 1978 RAMP would be brought forward. NSO within the boundary, unless the development facilitates recreation use or enhances wildlife.	Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

6000 Land Resources (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
6093	LR:1-1	Obtain access to the areas identified below: • Muddy Mountain • Bolton Creek Drainage • Bates Creek Area • Rattlesnake Range • Pine Ridge.	Obtain access to the areas identified below, where demand and public use are high: • Bates Creek Area • Rattlesnake Range.	Obtain access to the areas identified below: • Muddy Mountain • Bolton Creek Drainage • Bates Creek Area • Rattlesnake Range • Pine Ridge.	Obtain access to the areas identified below: • Muddy Mountain • Bolton Creek Drainage • Bates Creek Area • Rattlesnake Range • Pine Ridge.	Negotiate easements, where needed, to meet program needs. These needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Jackson Canyon ACEC (Existing ACEC)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal **GOAL SD:1** Maintain bald eagle winter roost habitat within the Jackson Canyon ACEC to facilitate meeting the objectives within the Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
7001	SD:1	Revise the existing boundary by enlarging it approximately ¼ mile to the south, making use of topographic features to screen bald eagle roosts.				
7002	SD:1	Development of existing oil and gas leases will be subject to NSO (which is a condition of the existing leases). All federal mineral estate in the ACEC will be available for oil and gas leasing, with any leases issued subject to an NSO stipulation.				
7003	SD:1	The existing federal mineral estates in the ACEC, and any additional mineral estate that may be acquired in the ACEC, will be withdrawn from location and appropriation under the mining laws. The ACEC is closed to disposal of mineral materials.				
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7004	SD:1	The Jackson Canyon ACEC completed by the BLM was carried forward into the 1985 RMP. Management prescriptions for this area can be found in the Jackson Canyon ACEC and Bald Eagle HMP.	Retain the Jackson Canyon ACEC using the proposed adjustments in the management actions below.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	The Jackson Canyon ACEC is retained and the management prescriptions in the Jackson Canyon ACEC HMP will be implemented with the following adjustments.
7005	SD:1	Access. A 60-foot-wide road to the archery range on public land now under R&PP Act lease to the Girl Scouts, proposed for construction by the Natrona County Parks Department, may be authorized by ROW. The 60-foot width should meet requirements under state law for subdivision access; such ROW will allow year-round occupancy.	Upgrading the existing road to the archery range to a 60-foot width will not be allowed. Upgrading is limited to the BLM's "Resource road" standard (14-foot travel way width and total ROW of 40-50-foot width) on public lands (BLM Manual Section 9113).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
7006	SD:1	Exchange will be pursued to acquire all State of Wyoming lands within or adjacent to the ACEC; public lands located outside the ACEC (to be identified by the State of Wyoming) would be disposed of by exchange to the State of Wyoming. This decision includes disposal by exchange to the State of Wyoming of public lands outside the ACEC boundary that contain limestone deposits (T. 32 N., R, 80 W., Sections 27, 28 and 34). Some of the state lands adjacent to the ACEC that were identified during preliminary BLM-state exchange negotiations are located in Sections 2, 3, and 4 of T. 31 N., R. 80 W., and in Sections 28 and 29 of T. 32 N., R. 80 W. If limestone mining is proposed on the exchanged lands, those actions will be subject to access and blasting limitations from November 1 through March 31.	Acquisition of lands through exchange would not be pursued. Only conservation easements or the acquisition of State of Wyoming lands within or adjacent to the ACEC would be pursued.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Exchange will be pursued to acquire all State of Wyoming lands within or adjacent to the ACEC; public lands located outside the ACEC (to be identified by the State of Wyoming) would be disposed of by exchange to the State of Wyoming.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Jackson Canyon ACEC (Existing ACEC)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7007	SD:1	Forestry. The acreage and volume identified for harvest within the ACEC, including the 163 acres of remaining commercial forest, will not be harvested for BLM's commercial base. Timber within the ACEC will not be harvested for commercial purposes, but will be actively managed.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Commercial harvest will be allowed to meet bald eagle management objectives. Commercial harvesting will not be allowed merely to meet BLM's commercial harvest quotas.	Forest harvesting will be allowed to reduce fuel loads and disease while meeting bald eagle management objectives. All constructed roads would be closed and reclaimed.
7008	SD:1	Fire Management: All federal lands within or adjacent to the ACEC will be designated priority full suppression. Priority full suppression may include full suppression of wildfires with all available resources, including vehicle use on existing roads and trails, air support, construction of roads, and grading of firebreaks using heavy equipment. Any surface disturbance resulting from suppression efforts will be restored and reclaimed immediately after a fire is suppressed. To the extent possible, trees will not be cut down within 200 yards of the bald eagle roosts during fire suppression.	Same as Alternative A, except road construction will not be allowed.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
7009	SD:1	Fire management plans will identify areas where grading of roads and (or) firebreaks are most needed for fire suppression, as well as will identify those areas where protection from wildfires is most critical.	Same as Alternative A, except grading of roads will not be allowed.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.
7010	SD:1	Prescribed burning will be implemented, where necessary, to meet range and forest resource management objectives, but it will not be allowed from November 1 through March 31.	Prescribed fire will be used to meet bald eagle habitats, livestock grazing, and forestry objectives. A seasonal restriction to protect bald eagles would be in accordance with Section 7 consultation with the USFWS.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Prescribed fire will be used to meet bald eagle habitats, livestock grazing, fuels management, and forestry objectives. Exceptions to the existing seasonal restriction of November 1 through March 31 to protect bald eagle roosting habitats would be granted on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the USFWS.
7011	SD:1	ACEC Boundary Adjustments: Mineral materials located outside the revised ACEC boundary (as identified above) will be available for development to extract limestone or other salable minerals without seasonal or occupancy restrictions. Those lands will be subject to access and blasting limitations from November 1 through March 31.	Same as Alternative A.	Mineral materials located outside the ACEC boundary would be considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative C.	ACEC Boundary Adjustments: Mineral materials located outside and adjacent to the revised ACEC boundary will be available for development to extract limestone or other salable minerals. Those lands may be subject to access and blasting limitations from November 1 through March 31.
7012	SD:1	The existing ACEC boundary in the eastern portion of the area will be revised by reducing it (by approximately 1,400 acres) to the township line between range 79 and 80 west, making it the eastern ACEC boundary (ACEC Map 61).	To meet the bald eagle habitat objective on split estate lands, the existing ACEC boundary in the eastern portion of the area will not be revised by reducing it (by approximately 1,400 acres) to the township line between range 79 and 80 west.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Jackson Canyon ACEC (Existing ACEC)

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
7013	SD:1	Silvicultural practices (thinning and mountain pine beetle management) would continue to be implemented to achieve species diversity and to obtain healthy-aged and structured stands for the benefit of bald eagle roosting habitats.	Same as the Alternative A, existing roads and trails would be used to haul wood products.	Allow forest treatments within bald eagle roost areas and manage stands in roost areas for old growth. Limit commercial harvest of wood products to a single contractor for each commercial harvest at any given time. Construct the necessary amount of roads and trails to promote forest management and product removal.	Maximize harvest of wood products within bald eagle roost areas. Allow road and trail infrastructure, as needed, to remove forest products. Limit forest management and product sales to nonroosting periods.	Same as Alternative C, except after completing activities, all roads and trails will be closed and reclaimed.
7014	SD:1	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Jackson Canyon	No similar action.	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Jackson Canyon	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Jackson Canyon	Negotiate easements, where needed, to meet program needs. These needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC (Existing ACEC)

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Goal **GOAL SD:2** Reduce environmental damage or associated impacts from mineral production in the Salt Creek drainage, which will improve air and water quality, promote public safety, increase resource utility, improve the visual resource, and enhance vegetative growth. Negotiate with oil companies to develop preventative maintenance to eliminate environmental hazards from oil spills. Secure cooperative agreements with the Naval Petroleum Reserve and private and state mineral owners to clean up environmental hazards in the ACEC area **OBJECTIVES –** None identified**.**						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7015	SD:2	The Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC, completed by the BLM, was carried forward into the 1985 RMP. Management prescriptions for this area can be found in the Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC designation.	Retain the Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC and implement stream monitoring, monitor produced water discharge, and conduct annual field inspections. Conduct a cultural resource inventory and evaluate historical oil and gas sites, structures, and town sites that may be eligible for the nomination to the National Register. Secure cooperative agreements with developers of state and privately owned oil and gas to clean up existing hazards in the ACEC area.	Modify the Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC by amending the plan to cover those functions that are within the jurisdiction of the BLM. Reduce the aerial extent of the ACEC to those lands within the jurisdiction of the Casper Field Office. (Note: the portion of the original ACEC in Johnson County is not retained in the present Buffalo RMP.)	Do not retain the Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC designation. Address environmental hazards on a case-by-case basis and work with operators to clean up and reclaim environmental hazards.	Same as Alternative D, except a weed-management plan would be implemented in accordance with decisions made in the INPS alternatives.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Alcova Fossil Area (Proposed ACEC or Other MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal **GOAL SD:3** Manage BLM paleontological resources in the Alcova Fossil Area to enhance their informational, educational, scientific, and recreational uses. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified**.**						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7016	SD:3	The Alcova Fossil Area will be evaluated for significant paleontological resources. NSO would be allowed inside areas with significant paleontological resources. Refer to Appendix W for legal descriptions of the identified lands.	The Alcova Fossil Area will be designated as an ACEC. Preservation of the paleontological resources will be encouraged by prohibiting all surface-disturbing activities (NSO) except those in support of scientific research. The area will be closed to OHV use. No visitor facilities or development will be done in the area. A management plan will be written to identify long-term goals for management and determine allowable activities. The area for designation includes public lands on the north and south sides of Alcova Reservoir (7,073 total acres, of which 5,981 are BLM-administered surface). Refer to Appendix W for legal descriptions of the public lands.	The Alcova Fossil Area will be designated as an ACEC. Preservation of the paleontological resources will be encouraged by minimizing all surface-disturbing activities (CSU) except those in support of scientific research. The area will be closed to OHV use. Visitor interpretation and education facilities will be minimal, using offsite or nearby signs or kiosks. A management plan will be written for any development and to identify long-term goals for management. The area for designation includes public lands only on the south side of Alcova Reservoir (5,963 total acres, of which 5,282 are BLM-administered surface). Refer to Appendix W for legal descriptions of the public lands.	The Alcova Fossil Area will be managed as an MA. Other resource activities will be allowed to occur only if they do not cause undue degradation to the paleontological resources present in the area. Areas determined to be sensitive to damage will be identified and closed to OHV use. Scientific research will be encouraged. Visitor interpretation and education facilities (e.g., trails, interpretive signs, and kiosks) will be encouraged. A cooperative management approach will be formulated with the USBR and other parties, as appropriate. A management plan will be written only if public facilities will be considered. The area for designation includes public lands only on the south side of Alcova Reservoir (5,963 total acres, of which 5,282 are BLM-administered surface). Refer to Appendix W for legal descriptions.	The Alcova Fossil Area will be designated as an ACEC. Proposed surface-disturbing activities will be analyzed to assess potential adverse impacts on paleontological resources. Mitigation may include prohibition, avoidance, or onsite monitoring, based on the assessment. OHV use in the area will be limited to designated roads and trails. Visitor interpretation and education facilities will be minimal, using offsite or nearby signs or kiosks. A management plan will be written for any development and to identify long-term goals for management. The area for designation includes BLM-administered lands only on the south side of Alcova Reservoir (5,963 total acres, of which 5,282 are BLM-administered surface). Refer to Appendix W for legal descriptions.
7017	SD:3	No similar action.	All public lands will be retained. Parcels that are presently private or state land will be explored for acquisition of lands and interests in lands using the following priority levels. Refer to Appendix W for legal descriptions. High Priority (to maintain public access to USBR recreation area and acquire significant resources). Moderate Priority (to acquire significant resources and access routes). Low Priority (to enhance opportunities for research, interpretation, and management and/or reduce in holdings).	All public lands will be retained. Parcels that are presently private or state land will be explored for acquisition of lands and interests in lands using the following priority levels. Refer to Appendix W for legal descriptions. High Priority (to maintain public access to USBR recreation area and acquire significant resources). Moderate Priority (to acquire significant resources and access routes). Low Priority (to enhance opportunities for research, interpretation, and management and/or reduce in holdings).	All public lands will be retained. No additional lands will be sought to add to the present public land-ownership pattern.	Same as Alternative C.
7018	SD:3	A withdrawal on the Alcova Fossil Area will be pursued on 1,613 acres. The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not mineral leasing laws.	A withdrawal on the Alcova Fossil Area will be pursued on 6,193 acres. The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not mineral leasing laws.	A withdrawal on the Alcova Fossil Area will be pursued on 5,805 acres. The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not mineral leasing laws.	No withdrawal on the Alcova Fossil Area will be pursued.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Bates Hole (Proposed MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal **GOAL SD:4** Manage the Bates Hole MA to protect highly erosive soils, fragile watersheds, and important and crucial wildlife habitat; conserve and (or) improve special status species habitat and maintain unfragmented vegetative communities. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified**.**						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
7019	SD:4	Those portions of the Bates Hole MA within the Jackson Canyon ACEC and Muddy Mountain EEA would be managed under the decisions for those areas.				
7020	SD:4	Those portions of the Bates Hole MA within the North Platte River ACEC/SRMA and Alcova Fossil ACEC (if selected) would be managed under the decisions for those areas.				
7021	SD:4	Management actions to conserve and (or) improve greater sage-grouse habitats are described in the Special Status Species section.				
Note: Management actions needed to meet the goals for the Bates Hole MA are identified below; however, other resource values not identified in the goals would be managed in accordance with the individual RMP decisions for that resource.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7022	SD:4	Resource management in this area would continue to focus on managing the principal resource values in the area. These are vegetation, wildlife, sensitive soils, and fragile watersheds.	The Bates Hole MA would be established on approximately 375,221 acres, of which 158,023 are BLM surface. This MA is defined by two State of Wyoming 5th-level watersheds: Bates Creek (HUC10180000702) and North Platte River-Bolton Creek (HUC 10180000701). Due to the mixed land ownership, the area would be managed in cooperation with adjacent landowners.	Same as Alternative B.	The Bates Hole MA would not be established.	Same as Alternative B.
7023	SD:4	The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Bolton Creek Drainage and Bates Creek areas.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	The BLM will not pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Bolton Creek Drainage and Bates Creek areas.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Bates Hole (Proposed MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7024	SD:4	To protect the principal resource values in the area, restrictions on development would continue to be managed in the same manner as the rest of the planning area. Big Game Crucial Winter Range: NSO or disruptive activities from 11-15 through 4-30 (TLS) in crucial winter range. The restriction does not apply to maintenance of existing facilities. Sage-grouse Habitats: Avoid surface disturbance or occupancy within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks (CSU). Avoid human activity between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 (TLS) within ¼ mile of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks. Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in suitable sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 miles of an occupied lek or in identified sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats outside the 2-mile buffer from March 15 to July 15 (TLS). Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in sage-grouse winter habitats from November 15 to March 14 (TLS). Sensitive Soil and Fragile Watersheds: Surface-disturbing activities are prohibited from 11-30 through 6-1 (TLS) on Muddy Mountain. Without written permission, surface-disturbing activities are prohibited on slopes of more than 25 percent. Surface-disturbing activities are prohibited within ¼ mile of the North Platte River and within 500 feet of live streams, lakes, reservoirs, canals, associate riparian habitats, water wells, springs, or artesian and flowing wells. Special Designations and Other MAs: The Jackson Canyon ACEC and Muddy Mountain EEA areas would continue to be managed as described in their respective activity plans.	Surface-disturbing activities and disruptive activities would be subject to a CSU stipulation, restricting or prohibiting surface occupancy unless the proponent and surface management agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation for impacts. To meet watershed management goals, the Bates Hole MA would be intensively managed as described in Appendix U – Intensive Management.	Same as Alternative B.	To protect the principal resource values in the area, restrictions on development would be managed the same as the rest of the planning area. Big Game Crucial Winter Range:No surface-disturbing and disruptive activities are allowed from November 15 through April 30 (TLS) on all crucial big game winter ranges. The authorized officer can grant exceptions. Sage-grouse Habitats: Same as Alternative A. Sensitive Soil and Fragile Watersheds: The TLS restricting surface-disturbing activities from 11-30 through 6-1 (TLS) on Muddy Mountain will be removed. Without written permission, surface-disturbing activities are prohibited on slopes of more than 25 percent. The area within ¼ mile of the North Platte River would be managed as described in the Special Designations – North Platte River ACEC, Alternative D (within the SRMA) of this document. Special Designations and Other MAs: The Jackson Canyon ACEC would be managed as described in the decision for its activity plan, except as amended in the Special Designations – Jackson Canyon ACEC, Alternative D, of this document. The Muddy Mountain EEA areas would be managed as described in their respective activity plans.	Same as Alternative B.
7025	SD:4	Placement of ROW would continue to be restricted on Highway 220 from Bessemer Mountain to Alcova. When placement of a major ROW facility within a designated corridor is not possible, and for smaller ROW and other linear facilities, placement would continue to be adjacent to existing facilities or disturbances. Cross-country placement of ROW and other linear facilities would continue to be allowed only when placement in a designated corridor or adjacent to an existing facility is not practical or feasible.	No new corridor designations will be made in Bates Hole. When placement of a major ROW facility within a designated corridor is not possible, and for smaller ROW and other linear facilities, placement will be adjacent to existing facilities or disturbances. Cross-country placement of ROW and other linear facilities will be allowed only when placement in a designated corridor or adjacent to an existing facility is not practical or feasible. The extent of all surface disturbances would be minimized.	Same as Alternative B.	The restriction on the placement of ROWs will be removed. All future ROWs in the area would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Black-tailed Prairie Dog (Proposed ACEC)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal **GOAL SD:5** Manage for the long term, self-sustaining persistence of the black-tailed prairie dog through the protection of prairie dog complexes and their habitats in the planning area. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified**.**						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7026	SD:5	There are no special designations or Other MAs within the proposed ACEC. The area would continue to be managed for multiple uses.	The Black-tailed Prairie Dog ACEC would be designated for the protection of black-tailed prairie dog habitats. (22,937 total acres, of which 3,103 acres, are BLM surface). The ACEC would remain open to oil and gas leasing, but would administratively unavailable for geophysical exploration conducted outside of the rights granted by the oil and gas lease. Geophysical exploration conducted under the rights granted by the lease would be allowed. Future development on new oil and gas leases would be allowed for one well pad per 160 acres of federal mineral estate. For those ¼ sections where the federal mineral estate is less than 160 acres, one well pad would be allowed. Linear facilities would be routed around the ACEC (CSU), where possible. Aboveground facilities located within ¼ mile of the ACEC would be equipped with anti-raptor perching devices. Artificial nest structures would not be allowed in the ACEC. Natural fire regime would be introduced in the ACEC.	Same as Alternative B.	The Black-tailed Prairie Dog area would not be designated an ACEC. The area would be managed for multiple uses.	Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) (Proposed ACEC or MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal **GOAL SD:6** Protect sensitive and significant values at Cedar Ridge. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7027	SD:6	No special designations or Other MAs for the Cedar Ridge TCP exist. Sensitive and significant values at Cedar Ridge are protected on a case-by-case basis.	Designate the Cedar Ridge TCP and periphery area as an ACEC (21,742 total acres, of which 14,065 are BLM surface). Activities listed in Intensive Management, Appendix U, would be applied in these areas.	Establish the Cedar Ridge MA (19,055 total acres, of which 12,481 are BLM surface). Activities listed in Intensive Management, Appendix U, would be applied in these areas.	Cedar Ridge would not be designated as an ACEC or established as an MA. Cultural resources on Cedar Ridge would be managed in accordance with management actions record numbers 7028 through 7033 listed below.	Same as Alternative D.
7028	SD:6	No similar action.	NSO or use would be allowed in the TCP. Maintenance of existing range improvements will be allowed, but no additional range improvements would be allowed in the ACEC.	Same as Alternative B.	Surface-disturbing activities in the TCP would be subject to a CSU stipulation, restricting or prohibiting surface occupancy unless the proponent and surface management agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of impacts.	NSO or use would be allowed in the TCP. Maintenance of existing range improvements will be allowed. No additional range improvements would be allowed.
7029	SD:6	No similar action.	The Cedar Ridge periphery area is defined as the 3-mile viewshed to the south and Badwater Road to the north. Surface-disturbing activities in this area would be subject to a CSU stipulation, restricting or prohibiting surface occupancy unless the proponent and surface management agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of impacts. To minimize surface-disturbing activities, oil and gas exploration and development will use directional drilling techniques and well twinning wherever practicable in the periphery area.	Same as Alternative B, except CSU would be applied to a periphery area defined as the 3-mile viewshed as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and as far north as Badwater Road.	No CSU would be applied to the Cedar Ridge periphery area.	Same as Alternative C, except the periphery area is defined as the viewshed as far south as the Arminto/Lost Cabin Road and as far north as Badwater Road. Surface-disturbing activities will be minimized by using techniques such as directional drilling and well twinning wherever practicable in the periphery area.
7030	SD:6	The area would continue to be open to disposal of mineral materials.	Development of mineral materials will not be allowed within the TCP. Existing mineral material permits would be allowed to expire without renewal or expansion. Disturbed areas would be rehabilitated to achieve visual resource and vegetative standards. Development of mineral materials in the periphery area would be restricted to five acres or less, allowing expansion of sites or contiguous development of mineral materials only after rehabilitation of the initial location has been initiated.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
7031	SD:6	No similar action	BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Cedar Ridge area.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) (Proposed ACEC or MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7032	SD:6	No similar action.	Within the TCP and periphery area, the current level of livestock use will be maintained or reduced.	Within the TCP, the current level of livestock use will be maintained or reduced.	Maintain, but do not reduce, the current level of livestock use in either the TCP or the periphery area.	Manage levels of livestock use to meet TCP objectives.
7033	SD:6	No similar action.	A withdrawal on Cedar Ridge will be pursued for the TCP (19,637 acres of federal mineral estate) and a buffer zone. The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	A withdrawal on Cedar Ridge will be pursued for the TCP only (4,058 acres of federal mineral estate). The withdrawal will segregate from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	No withdrawal will be pursued on Cedar Ridge.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – North Platte River (Proposed ACEC, MA, or SRMA)

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Goals and Objectives						
GOAL SD:7 Protect the natural resources, fisheries, wildlife habitats, and cultural values within the North Platte River corridor.						
OBJECTIVES -						
SD:7.1 Manage the public lands and mineral estate in a manner that enhances the natural character and preserves wildlife and fisheries habits.						
SD:7.2 Manage activities on public lands and mineral estate in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance.						
SD:7.3 Manage riparian habitats on public lands and mineral estates for PFC and DPC.						
GOAL SD:8 Manage water-based recreation opportunities to provide an array of benefits to the public—including economic, environmental, personal, and social benefits—to protect the relevant values along this river.						
OBJECTIVES -						
SD:8.1 Provide a diverse array of quality water-based recreation opportunities while minimizing user conflicts and promoting public safety.						
SD:8.2 Support and collaborate with local governments and service providers in adjoining communities to produce recreation opportunities for visitors and local residents to achieve health and fitness goals and quality of life benefits.						
SD:8.3 Emphasize and support collaborative public outreach, awareness events, and programs that promote public service and stewardship.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
7034	SD:7.1	The existing North Platte River protective withdrawal on 3,226 acres would continue. The withdrawal segregates from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws.				
7035	SD:7.1	The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the North Platte River area. Lands acquired by purchase or donation are segregated from operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.				
7036	SD:7.1	Restoration projects will focus on improving wildlife and fisheries habitats and recreational opportunities.				
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7037	SD:7.1	Public lands along the North Platte River would continue to be managed as an SRMA (3,561 acres of which 3,561 acres are BLM-administered surface, and 3,552 acres are federal mineral estate).	The North Platte River would be designated as an ACEC. The ACEC would include public lands and mineral estates within ¼ mile either side of the river from the high water mark for the entire length of the Casper Field Office (85,393 acres of which 3,488 acres are BLM-administered surface, and 15,286 acres are federal mineral estate).	A portion of the North Platte River would be designated as an ACEC. The ACEC would include public lands and mineral estates within ¼ mile either side of the river from the high water mark between Pathfinder Dam and the Dave Johnston Power Plant (33,258 acres of which 2,387 acres are BLM-administered surface, and 7,840 acres are federal mineral estate).	A portion of the North Platte River would be established as an SRMA. The SRMA would include public lands and mineral estates within ¼ mile either side of the river from the high water mark between Pathfinder Dam and Robertson Road in Casper (19,500 acres of which 2,238 acres are BLM-administered surface, and 6,054 acres are federal mineral estate).	A portion of the North Platte River would be established as an SRMA. The SRMA would include public lands and mineral estates within ¼ mile either side of the river from the high water mark between Pathfinder Dam and the Natrona/Converse County line (25,842 acres of which 2,250 acres are BLM-administered surface, and 7,059 acres are federal mineral estate).
7038	SD:7.1	The area within ¼ mile of the North Platte River for its entire length in the planning area would continue to be closed to disposal of mineral materials.	The ACEC would be closed to disposal of mineral materials.	Same as Alternative B within the ACEC. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the ACEC (east of the Dave Johnston Power Plant) would be open to disposal of mineral materials.	Same as Alternative B within the SRMA. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark and downstream of the SRMA (east of Robertson Road in Casper) would be open to disposal of mineral materials.	The SRMA would be closed to mineral material disposal. Public lands within ¼ mile of the river and downstream of the SRMA (east of Natrona/Converse County Line) would be open to disposal of mineral materials with the following exceptions: (a) public lands adjacent to or within ¼ mile of Guernsey Reservoir, or (b) public lands within Glendo State Park or within ¼ mile of the Glendo State Park boundary would be closed to disposal of mineral materials.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – North Platte River (Proposed ACEC, MA, or SRMA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7039	SD:7.1	The area within ¼ mile of the North Platte River would continue to be open to oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations.	The ACEC would be administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations.	Same as Alternative B within the ACEC. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the ACEC (east of the Dave Johnston Power Plant) would be open to oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations.	Same as Alternative B within the SRMA. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark and downstream of the SRMA (east of East of Robertson Road in Casper) would be open to oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations.	Same as Alternative A within the SRMA.
7040	SD:7.1	Surface development would continue to be prohibited within ¼ mile of the North Platte River. The ¼-mile restriction would not be waived on the Trappers Route tracts, but it would be waived for recreation facilities.	Same as Alternative A within the ACEC.	Same as Alternative A within the ACEC. Surface development would be allowed on public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the ACEC (east of the Dave Johnston Power Plant) subject to a CSU stipulation.	Same as Alternative A within the SRMA. Surface development would be allowed on public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the SRMA (east of Robertson Road in Casper) subject to a CSU stipulation.	Same as Alternative A within the SRMA. Surface development would be allowed on public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the SRMA (east of the Natrona/Converse County line) subject to a CSU stipulation. However, public lands adjacent to or within ¼-mile of Guernsey Reservoir, or within Glendo State Park or within ¼ mile of the Glendo State Park boundary would be subject to an NSO restriction, except for recreational facilities.
7041	SD:7.1	The area within 1 mile on either side of the river would continue to be an ROW exclusion area.	The ACEC would be an ROW exclusion area.	Same as Alternative B within the ACEC. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the ACEC (east of the Dave Johnston Power Plant) would be available for location of ROWs.	Same as Alternative B within the SRMA. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the SRMA (east of Robertson Road in Casper) would be available for location of ROWs.	Same as Alternative B within the SRMA. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the SRMA (east of the Natrona/Converse County line) would be available for location of ROWs.
7042	SD:7.1	Newly acquired parcels along the North Platte River would continue to be not available for livestock grazing.	Same as Alternative A.	Lands acquired in the ACEC by purchase or donation would be available for livestock grazing, except those lands used as recreational landing sites. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the ACEC (east of the Dave Johnston Power Plant) would be available for livestock grazing.	Lands acquired along the entire river by purchase or donation would be available for livestock grazing.	Those lands used as recreational landing sites and lands acquired along the entire river to enhance public access by purchase, donation, or exchange would not be available for livestock grazing.
7043	SD:7.1	Public surface along the river would continue to be available for livestock grazing. Grazing leases may be adjusted for the protection of natural resources, wildlife habitats, and recreational values.	The ACEC would be open to livestock grazing. Grazing leases may be adjusted or terminated for the protection of natural resources, wildlife habitats, and recreational values. Grazing leases would not be renewed for Trapper's Route landing sites.	Same as Alternative B within the ACEC. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the ACEC (east of the Dave Johnston Power Plant) would be available for livestock grazing.	Same as Alternative B within the SRMA. Public lands within ¼ mile of the high water mark downstream of the SRMA (east of Robertson Road in Casper) would be available for livestock grazing.	Same as Alternative A.
7044	SD:8.1	Obtain access to the areas identified below. North Platte River	Obtain access to the areas identified below, where demand and public use are high. North Platte River upstream of Casper	Obtain access to the areas identified below. North Platte River upstream of Casper	Obtain access to the areas identified below. North Platte River (Pathfinder to Casper)	Negotiate easements where needed, to meet program needs. These needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Salt Creek (Proposed MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal **GOAL SD:9** Manage the Salt Creek MA to facilitate oil and gas exploration and development. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7045	SD:9	The proposed Salt Creek MA lies within the Salt Creek Hazardous ACEC. Activities within the ACEC are managed in accordance with the decision for the ACEC.	The Salt Creek MA would not be established to facilitate oil and gas development. The area would be managed in accordance with the RMP revision decisions for that resource or use.	The Salt Creek MA would be established on areas determined to have a high development potential as defined in the Casper Field Office RFD Scenario for Oil and Gas Development (23,911 acres, of which 19,325 are federal surface). Oil and gas development would be a priority in the area with minimum restrictions. New oil and gas leases in this area would be issued with standard stipulations only. Development would comply with nondiscretionary laws like the ESA, the NHPA, etc., but discretionary timing stipulations protecting sage-grouse nesting habitat, raptor nesting habitat, and crucial winter range would not be considered.	The Salt Creek MA would be established to include Salt Creek, South Salt Creek, West Salt Creek, Smoky Gap, East Teapot, North Sage Spring Creek, and Sage Spring Creek fields (90,931 acres, of which 35,616 are federal surface). The area would be managed primarily for oil and gas development with minimum restrictions.	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Sand Hills (Proposed MA)

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Goal **GOAL SD:10** Manage the Sand Hills MA to maintain the integrity of soils and vegetation and to protect highly erosive soils and watershed values. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.						
Note: Management actions needed to meet the goal for the Sand Hills MA are identified below; however, other resource values not identified in the goal would be managed in accordance with the individual RMP decisions for that resource.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7046	SD:10	The area contains no designated MAs. Resource management in this area would continue to focus on managing the principal resource values in the area (i.e., soil, water, and vegetation on fragile sand dunes).	The Sand Hills MA would be established on 17,633 acres, all of which is BLM surface.	Same as Alternative B.	The Sand Hills management area would not be established.	Same as Alternative B.
7047	SD:10	The area would continue to be open to oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration.	The area would be administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration would not be allowed.	Same as Alternative B.	The area would be open to oil and gas leasing and geophysical exploration.	Same as Alternative B.
7048	SD:10	The area would continue to be open to operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	The area will be withdrawn. The withdrawal would segregate from operation of the public lands laws, including the mining laws.	Same as Alternative B.	The area would be open to operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	Same as Alternative B.
7049	SD:10	The area would continue to be open to the disposal of mineral materials.	The area will be closed to disposal of mineral materials.	Same as Alternative B.	The area would be open to the disposal of mineral materials.	Same as Alternative B.
7050	SD:10	Parcels for disposal by exchange for public purpose needs have been identified on lands within RMU 6, Sand Hills (formerly Casper Sand Dunes). These parcels may be disposed of by sale in response to public request if the sale clearly would be in the public's interest and conforms to management objectives for the area.	Time will be allowed for land-tenure adjustments (consistent with management objectives for the area).	Same as Alternative B.	Land acquisition would be pursued on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative B.
7051	SD:10	No designated corridors within the proposed Sand Hills MA exist. When placement of a major facility within a designated corridor is not possible, and for smaller ROW facilities, placement will be adjacent to existing facilities or disturbances. Cross-country ROW placement will be allowed only when placement in a designated corridor or adjacent to an existing facility is not practical or feasible.	No new corridor designations would be made. The area would be an ROW exclusion area.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
7052	SD:10	BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Sand Hills area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	BLM will not pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the Sand Hills area.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Sand Hills (Proposed MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7053	SD:10	A watershed plan would be developed for the area in coordination with wildlife and range resources. The plan would clarify any special mitigation required to reduce impacts associated with surface-disturbing activities.	All surface-disturbing activities would be subject to a CSU stipulation, minimizing surface disturbance to meet management objectives.	Same as Alternative B.	A watershed plan would not be developed for the area.	Same as Alternative B.
7054	SD:10	No legal public access is available; access is gained through landowner permission only. Access is aquired only through a cooperative landowner agreement, should public demand warrant it.	Provide access and limit use to nonmotorized.	Provide road access.	Same as Alternative A.	Pursue obtaining legal public access and limit use to nonmotorized.
7055	SD:10	Obtain access to areas identified below. Sand Hills (formerly Casper Sand Dunes)	No similar action.	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Sand Hills	Obtain access to the areas identified below. (Pathfinder to Casper). Sand Hills	Negotiate easements, where needed, to meet program needs. These needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – South Bighorns/Red Wall (Proposed ACEC or MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal and Objectives **GOAL SD:11** Manage the South Bighorns/Red Wall MA to protect and enhance crucial wildlife habitat; protect and enhance unique vegetative communities; maintain unfragmented habitats; preserve and protect cultural and scenic values; and maintain the undeveloped, open character while providing for a semi-primitive recreational experience. **OBJECTIVES -** **SD:11.1** Maintain intact crucial wildlife habitats, unique vegetative communities, unfragmented habitats, significant cultural sites, and open space. **SD:11.2** Maintain current acres of curl-leaf mountain mahogany over a span of 15 years.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
7056	SD:11.1	Those portions of the South Bighorns/Red Wall ACEC/MA within the Cedar Ridge ACEC/MA would be managed in accordance with the decisions for Cedar Ridge.				
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7057	SD:11.1 SD:11.2	The area contains no designated ACECs or MAs. Resource management in this area would continue to focus on managing the principal resource values in the area. These are (i.e., vegetation, recreation, and mineral development).	The South Bighorns/Red Wall ACEC would be designated on approximately 262,901 acres, of which 146,812 acres are public surface and 216,460 acres are federal mineral estate.	The South Bighorns/Red Wall MA would be established on approximately 369,325 acres, of which 206,155 acres are public surface and 309,854 acres are federal mineral estate.	The South Bighorns/Red Wall Area would not be designated as an ACEC or established as an MA. The area would be managed for multiple uses.	The South Bighorns/Red Wall MA would be established on approximately 93,352 acres, of which 55,945 acres are public surface and 75,913 acres are federal mineral estate.
7058	SD:11.1 SD:11.2	The area would continue to be open to mining.	The ACEC would be withdrawn. The withdrawal would segregate from the operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	The MA would be withdrawn. The withdrawal would segregate from the operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.	No withdrawal would be pursued. These lands would remain open to mining.	The area would be withdrawn. The withdrawal would segregate from the operation of the public land laws, including the mining laws.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – South Bighorns/Red Wall (Proposed ACEC or MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7059	SD:11.1	Approximately 20,179 acres, of which 12,539 acres are public surface and 20,179 acres are federal mineral estate, would continue to be administratively unavailable for oil and gas leasing. The area would continue to be open to geophysical exploration with operations severely limited by NSO restrictions.	The ACEC would be administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations on public surface. Activities on existing oil and gas leases would be managed intensively to meet the objectives of the ACEC (see Appendix U – Intensive Management). To minimize surface-disturbing activities, oil and gas exploration and development would use directional drilling techniques and well twinning whenever practicable.	The MA would be administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations on public surface. Activities on existing leases would be managed intensively to meet the objectives of the MA (see Appendix U – Intensive Management). To minimize surface-disturbing activities, oil and gas exploration and development would use directional drilling techniques and well twinning whenever practicable.	The area would be open to oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations on public lands.	Same as Alternative C.
7060	SD:11.1	The area would continue to be open to disposal of mineral materials.	The ACEC would be closed to disposal of mineral materials. Existing rights would be allowed to expire without renewal or expansion. Disturbed areas would be rehabilitated to achieve visual resource and vegetative standards.	That portion of the viewshed of the South Bighorns/Red Wall National Back Country Byway and county roads within the MA would restrict surface disturbance associated with the disposal of mineral materials to 5 acres or less, allowing for expansion of sites or contiguous disturbance only after rehabilitation of the initial location has been started.	The area would be open to disposal of mineral materials.	Same as Alternative B, except "ACEC" is changed to "MA."
7061	SD:11.1	The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the South Bighorns/Red Wall area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	The BLM will not pursue acquisition of lands and interest in lands in the South Bighorns/Red Wall area.	Same as Alternative A.
7062	SD:11.1	There are no designated corridors within the area; however, a small portion of the Lost Cabin-Arminto Road corridor overlaps the southwestern extent of the area.	There are no designated corridors and no corridors will be designated. No ROW will be allowed under this alternative; the area would be an ROW exclusion area.	The existing Lost Cabin-Arminto Road designated ROW corridor would be continued, but no new corridors would be designated. Any ROW in this area would be required to be located within the Lost Cabin-Arminto Corridor; the remainder of the area would be an ROW exclusion area.	The Lost Cabin-Arminto Road corridor designation would be removed. Restriction on the placement of ROWs would be removed. All future ROWs in the area would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.	No corridors will be designated; however, ROWs will be allowed on as case-by-case basis when management objectives for the area can still be achieved.
7063	SD:11.1 SD:11.2	The NSO restriction within ½ mile of the Red Wall/Gray Wall complex would be continued. (Approximately 35,212 acres, of which 20,820 acres are public surface and 27,629 acres are federal mineral estate.)	Same as Alternative A.	The Red Wall/Gray Wall complex would be managed with CSU stipulation restricting or prohibiting surface occupancy, unless the proponent and surface management agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of impacts.	The NSO restriction within ½ mile of the Red Wall/Gray Wall complex would be removed.	The Red Wall/Gray Wall complex is located entirely within the South Bighorns/Red Wall MA and is administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing and geophysical operations on public surface. Activities on existing leases would be intensively managed to meet the objectives of the MA (see Appendix U – Intensive Management). To minimize surface-disturbing activities, oil and gas exploration and development would use directional drilling techniques and well twinning whenever practicable.
7064	SD:11.1 SD:11.2	Non mineral-related surface-disturbing activities within ½ mile of the Red Wall/Gray Wall complex would continue to be subject to an NSO stipulation (NSO).	To meet the objectives of the area, non-mineral-related surface-disturbing activities and disruptive activities would be subject to a CSU stipulation restricting or prohibiting surface occupancy, unless the proponent and surface management agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of impacts.	Same as Alternative B.	The NSO restriction within ½ mile of the Red Wall/Gray Wall complex would be removed.	Nonmineral-related surface-disturbing activities within ½ mile of the Red Wall/Gray Wall complex would be subject to an NSO stipulation. To meet the objectives of the area, those areas outside the Red Wall/Gray Wall complex would be subject to a CSU stipulation restricting or prohibiting surface occupancy, unless the proponent and surface management agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of impacts.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – South Bighorns/Red Wall (Proposed ACEC or MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7065	SD:11.1	Cultural resources inventories are conducted in compliance with Section 106.	Conduct systematic block cultural resources inventories of the South Bighorns/Red Wall area. Acquire additional lands to block up and buffer sensitive resources, such as concentrations of sites eligible for nomination to the NRHP.	Conduct Class III block cultural inventories in high-site density areas. Acquire additional lands, when offered, to block uplands around sensitive resource concentrations.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
7066	SD:11.2	Obtain access to areas identified below. Red Wall South Bighorns	Obtain access to the areas identified below, where public use is high. Red Wall	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Red Wall South Bighorns	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Red Wall South Bighorns	Negotiate easements, where needed, to meet program needs. These needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Wind River Basin (Proposed MA)						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal **GOAL SD:12** Manage the Wind River Basin MA to facilitate oil and gas exploration and development. **OBJECTIVES –** None identified.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7067	SD:12	There are no special designations or Other MAs for the Wind River Basin.	The Wind River Basin MA would not be established to facilitate oil and gas development. The area would be managed according to the RMP revision decisions for that resource or use.	The Wind River Basin MA would be established on portions of the Wind River Basin having moderate-to-high oil and gas development potential (281,037 acres, of which 100,401 are federal surface). Oil and gas development would be a priority in the area with minimum restrictions. New oil and gas leases in this area would be issued with standard stipulations only. Development would comply with nondiscretionary laws such as the like the ESA, the NHPA, etc., but the discretionary timing stipulations protecting sage-grouse nesting habitats, raptor nesting habitats, mountain plover nests, and crucial winter range would not be applied.	Same as Alternative C, except the MA would be established on the entire Wind River Basin geologic province (539,911 acres, of which 213,238 are federal surface).	Same as Alternative C, except the MA would be established only on portions of the Wind River Basin with high and moderate oil and gas development potential (54,575 acres, of which 18,277 are federal surface).

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – National Back Country Byways						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goal and Objective **GOAL SD:13** Manage National Back Country Byways to enhance opportunities for the American public to see and enjoy the unique scenic and historic opportunities on public lands. **OBJECTIVE -** **SD:13.1** Showcase the BLM's multiple-use management through effective interpretation.						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
7068	SD:13.1	The existing South Bighorns/Red Wall National Back Country Byway designation would continue. Since the Seminoe/Alcova National Back Country Byway designation would continue in the Rawlins planning area, that portion of the byway within the planning area would continue to be cooperatively managed with the Rawlins Field Office.				
Management Actions by Alternative						
7069	SD:13.1	No similar action.	Install interpretive signs and kiosks on the National Back Country Byways (add cultural resource interpretation to existing kiosks; install one at each end of Bighorn Mountain Road where it intersects Buffalo Creek Road. Signs could be placed near EK Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Buffalo Creek and Grave Spring campgrounds, above Hackett Creek, and at Alkali Creek.	Install interpretive signs on the National Back Country Byways. Signs could be placed near EK Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Buffalo Creek, and Grave Spring campgrounds, above Hackett Creek, and at Alkali Creek.	Same as Alternative C.	Develop and implement interpretive signs on the National Back Country Byways. In addition, develop and implement a general signing program for the Casper Field Office.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – National Historic Trails (NHTs) and Other Historic Trails						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Goals and Objectives **GOAL SD:14** Manage historic trails for long-term heritage and educational values and to enhance the public experience. **OBJECTIVES -** **SD:14.1** Sites associated with historic trails will be interpreted and developed as needed. **SD:14.2** Maintain compatible recreational use with historic trail values. **GOAL SD:15** Enhance public experience through interpretive facilities and support of heritage tourism. **GOAL SD:16** Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflicts with other resource uses. **OBJECTIVES -** **SD:16.1** Maintain an inventory and evaluate trail segments for contributing or non-contributing status and include this information in a revised trails management plan. **SD:16.2** Monitor the condition of contributing trail segments and associated sites every 2 years or as appropriate. **SD:16.3** Maintain setting for those contributing trail segments where setting is an aspect of integrity by utilizing viewshed management tools. **SD:16.4** Develop activity plans for contributing trails segments and associated sites identified as high risk for adverse impacts. **SD:16.5** Maximize partnership and cooperative management opportunities (e.g., cooperate with private landowners to install trail markers, provide public access, etc).						
Management Actions Common to All Alternatives						
7070	SD:14.1 SD:14.2	Site TIR-8 Glade Draw Segment: The existing OHV closure will be maintained. Public access will be maintained to the site. Future management actions include placing an historic marker and interpretive sign at the site. The site will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.				
7071	SD:14.1 SD:16	Specified trail segments included in the Oregon/Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails Management Plan (1986 USDI-Bureau of Land Management) would continue to be managed in accordance with this plan.				
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Management Actions Applicable to All Historic Trails						
7072	SD:14.1 SD:16	NSO within ¼ mile or visual horizon, whichever is closer (1985 RMP, Decision M1 Surface Disturbance Stipulations; IM-WY-90-564). No similar action.	NSO within a ¼ mile or the visual horizon, whichever is closer; CSU from ¼ mile to 5-mile foreground/middle ground viewshed. The foreground/middle ground of NHTs will be managed as Class II until inventories are completed. Trail segments contributing to the overall eligibility and that have integrity of setting will be managed as VRM Class II. Where integrity of setting is lacking, the foreground/middle ground of NHTs will be managed as Class III.	CSU within a ¼ mile or the visual horizon, whichever is closer; CSU to 3-mile foreground viewshed. The foreground/middle ground of NHTs will be managed as Class II until inventories are completed. Trail segments contributing to the overall eligibility and that have integrity of setting will be managed asVRM Class II. Where integrity of setting is lacking, the foreground/middleground of NHT will be managed as Class III.	Same as Alternative A, except CSU within a ¼ mile or the visual horizon, whichever is closer. The foreground/middle ground of NHTs will be managed as Class II until inventories are completed. Trail segments contributing to the overall eligibility and that have integrity of setting will be managed as VRM Class II. Where integrity of setting is lacking, the foreground/middle ground of NHTs will be managed as Class III.	**A. NHTs and Other Historic Trails Where Setting Does Not Contribute to NRHP Eligibility.** 1. Existing physical features and associated sites would be protected from physical impacts. There would be no surface disturbance on trail traces. See Map 67. 2. CSU within ¼ mile or the visual horizon, whichever is closer to ensure that surface-disturbing activities avoid trail remains and the lands immediately surrounding them. Map 67 shows the protective zones. 3. ROW crossings at previously disturbed areas at right angles. 4. The setting associated with these historic trails would be managed in accordance with objectives for the VRM Class established for the areas. See Map 67.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – National Historic Trails (NHTs) and Other Historic Trails						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
						B. Where Historic Setting Contributes to NRHP Eligibility 1. Existing physical features and associated sites would be managed so that the trail trace and associated sites would be protected from physical impacts. 2. CSU would extend to the viewshed foreground (out to a maximum of 3 miles) or the visual horizon, whichever is closer to ensure that surface-disturbing activities avoid trail remains and the lands immediately surrounding them. Map 67 shows the protective zones. Management guidelines are summarized below: • ROW crossings at previously disturbed areas at right angles • Mineral leasing would continue with a CSU stipulation • Fences and range improvements would be permitted if impacts mitigated. 3. The historic setting associated with these trails would be managed to maintain the existing character of the landscape. Accordingly, the viewshed foreground (out to a maximum of 3 miles) would be managed as follows: • VRM Class II • Mineral leasing would continue with CSU stipulation. 4. NHTs will be managed as VRM Class II until inventories are completed. Segments not contributing overall eligibility will be managed as Class III.
7073	SD:14.1 SD:16	No similar action.	Locatable minerals within the 3-mile viewshed of historic trails would be withdrawn to locatable entry and operation, including disposal (924,153).	Locatable minerals within ¼ mile of historic trails and prominent landforms within the 3-mile viewshed would be withdrawn to locatable entry and operation, including disposal (80,285 acres) within ¼ mile. The buffer around prominent landforms is entirely within the ¼-mile buffer for historic trails.	Locatable minerals would not be withdrawn.	Locatable minerals within ¼ mile of historic trails and prominent landforms within the 3-mile viewshed would be withdrawn to locatable entry and operation, including disposal (80,285 acres) within ¼ mile. The buffer around prominent landforms is entirely within the ¼-mile buffer for historic trails.
Oregon Trail						
7074	SD:14.1 SD:14.2 SD:16	No surface development (NSO) will be allowed on the specific sites listed in Appendix W. The BLM will reassess the need to include other sites as they may be identified and to write management plans for sites that are potentially eligible for the NRHP (955 acres). Sites in Appendix W marked with an asterisk have been nominated to the National Register (829 acres).	No surface disturbance (NSO) on the listed trail segments in Appendix W is permitted unless it is to the benefit of the preservation or interpretation of the trail. The BLM will continue to reassess the need to include other sites, as identified.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – National Historic Trails (NHTs) and Other Historic Trails						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
7075	SD:14.2 SD:16.1	The following four parcels are part of Interagency Agreement No. K910-A3-0013 with the NPS for management of lands adjoining the Fort Laramie National Historic Site. These lands are not suitable for disposal by sale. They remain available for disposal by exchange or for transfer to the NPS. 1. Fort Laramie "A" Segment contains approximately 222 acres. 2. Old Bedlam Segment contains approximately 40 acres. 3. Tract Adjacent to South Boundary (excluding Fort Laramie National Historic Site withdrawal) contains approximately 148 acres. 4. Tract South of Old Bedlam contains approximately 120 acres (for a total of 530 acres). (Refer to Appendix W).	Continue to renew the existing MOU with the NPS at Fort Laramie. Acquire lands within the area described within the MOU. Pursue transfers, land or sales exchanges, conservation easements, and other management agreements with other governmental entities with the intention of preserving the recreation and historic values of the 13-mile stretch between Fort Laramie and Guernsey (to be managed as a recreational corridor). Manage pristine segments as VRM Class II; non-pristine segments as Class III.	Continue to renew the existing MOU with the NPS at Fort Laramie.	Let the MOU between the Casper Field Office and Fort Laramie National Historic Site expire.	Cooperatively manage per Interagency Agreement No. K910-A3-0013 with the NPS trail segments included in the agreement (see Appendix W). Pursue transfers, land exchanges or sales exchanges, conservation easements, and other management agreements with other governmental entities with the intention of preserving the recreation and historic values of the 13-mile stretch between Fort Laramie and Guernsey (to be managed as a recreational corridor). Manage pristine segments as VRM Class II; non-pristine segments as Class III.
7076	SD:16.3	The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and an interest in lands in the Ryan Hill/Alkali Slough, Avenue of Rocks, and Willow Springs areas.	The BLM will pursue acquisition of lands and an interest in lands in the Ryan Hill/Alkali Slough, Avenue of Rocks, and Willow Springs areas, as well as historic trail segments along the 13-mile stretch between Fort Laramie and Guernsey and west of Douglas.	Same as Alternative B.	The BLM will not pursue acquisition of lands and an interest in lands in the Ryan Hill/Alkali Slough, Avenue of Rocks, and Willow Springs areas, nor will the BLM pursue acquisition of historic trail segments along the 13-mile stretch between Fort Laramie and Guernsey and west of Douglas.	Acquisition of lands and interests in lands along NHTs through exchange, purchase, or donation would be pursued on a case-by-case basis.
7077	SD:14.1 SD:14.2	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Ryan Hill/Alkali Slough	No similar action.	Obtain access to the areas identified below. Ryan Hill/Alkali Slough	Obtain access to the areas identified below. (Pathfinder to Casper). Ryan Hill/Alkali Slough	Negotiate easements, where needed, to meet program needs. These needs would be identified on a case-by-case basis.
Bozeman Trail						
7078	SD:14.1	No surface development will be permitted on selected parcels along the Bozeman Trail in Converse County (1,030 acres). Refer to Appendix W for legal locations. Additional parcels or segments will be added as inventory and evaluation disclose suitable trail segments.	Same as Alternative A, except that NSO would be allowed on the additional sites identified in Appendix W, Table 4, Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A, except that NSO would be allowed on the additional sites identified in Appendix W, Table 4, Alternative C.	Same as Alternative A, except that NSO would be allowed on the additional sites identified in Appendix W, Table 4, Alternative D.	Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations and Other Management Areas (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers

Goal

GOAL SD:17 - Identify waterway segments suitable for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic River System.

OBJECTIVES - None identified.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

No Management Actions Common to All Alternatives identified.

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
7079	SD:17	Manage the six eligible waterway segments to protect the free-flowing, outstandingly remarkable values and tentative classification. Do not complete suitability review. Conduct a case-by-case review of proposed actions in eligible waterway segments and apply protective management, subject to valid existing rights. Eligible waterways include the following: • North Platte River • Badwater Creek • EK Creek • Deer Creek • Buffalo Creek (upper) • Buffalo Creek (lower).	Recommend all six eligible waterways as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.	Recommend none of the six eligible waterways as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative C.

8000 Socioeconomic Resources (SR) – Goals and Objectives

Goals

GOAL SR:1 Provide opportunities to develop national energy resources on BLM-administered lands within the planning area.

GOAL SR:2 Provide opportunities to develop resources other than those that are energy-related (e.g., grazing, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, tourism, and others) on BLM-administered lands within the planning area.

OBJECTIVES - None identified.

GOAL SR:3 Provide opportunities to sustain the cultural, social, and economic viability of local and regional communities by using decision-review processes that include considerations of various potential impacts of BLM decisions, including housing, employment, population, fiscal impacts, social services, cultural character, and municipal utilities.

GOAL SR:4 Protect public health and safety and environmental resources through complying with federal and state hazardous materials laws and regulations; maintaining the health of ecosystems though assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated sites; and integrating environmental protection and compliance into all BLM activities.

GOAL SR:5 Reduce potential risks associated with known hazards resulting from human activity, including, but not limited to, health and safety issues and other sensitive resource values.

8000 Socioeconomic Resources (SR) – Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Record #	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
8001	SR:4 SR:5	Manage hazardous materials in the planning area to reduce risks to visitors and employees, to restore contaminated lands, and to carry out emergency response activities, as per appropriate laws, policies, and regulations.				
8002	SR:4 SR:5	Coordinate with appropriate regulatory agencies to reduce hazards associated with abandoned mines.				
8003	SR:4 SR:5	Educate public of the hazards associated with abandoned mines using publications, signage, websites, and other educational materials and mediums.				
8004	SR:4 SR:5	Identify and prioritize potential hazards associated with abandoned mines.				
8005	SR:5	Surface occupancy or use within 50,000 feet of the Casper Airport will be subject to CSU restriction to protect aircraft fly zones. Surface occupancy or use within 10,000 feet of all other airports within the planning area will be subject to CSU restriction to protect aircraft fly zones.				

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

8000 Socioeconomic Resources (SR) – Social and Economic Conditions						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
8006	SR:1 SR:2 SR:3	The BLM's management actions are integrally connected with socioeconomics and are considered in the NEPA process.	Incorporate national energy needs into Casper Field Office land-use planning, while also considering the socioeconomic goals and objectives identified by the overlapping jurisdictions. Quantify the impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic actions and provide that information to the impacted parties and overlapping jurisdictions for the purpose of having a better common understanding of the impacts of BLM actions with the explicit goal of mitigating impacts through collaborative management, where possible.	Focus on national energy needs in the land-use planning process with regard to the emphasis on mineral development. Quantify the impacts associated with site specific and programmatic actions and provide that information to the impacted parties and overlapping jurisdictions for the purpose of having a better common understanding of the impacts of management actions without any explicit mitigation plans.	Quantify the impacts associated with the alternatives developed for proposed actions without regard to mitigating the socioeconomic impacts.	Same as Alternative B.
8007	SR:1 SR:2 SR:3	The BLM's management actions are integrally connected with socioeconomics and must be considered in the NEPA process.	Quantify the impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic actions and provide that information to the impacted parties and overlapping jurisdictions for the purpose of having a better common understanding of the impacts of management actions. Based on resource constraints, attempt to minimize the conflicts associated with mineral extraction while stressing a balanced approach to diversify and enhance the local economy by stressing, for example, grazing, the development of recreational opportunities, (e.g., fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing), and renewable energy (e.g., wind power, etc.). Share that information with impacted entities (local, state, and other federal agencies) and work with these agencies to ensure social and economic impacts are addressed and mitigated where possible.	Quantify the impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic actions and provide that information to the impacted parties and overlapping jurisdictions for the purpose of having a better common understanding of the impacts of management actions without any explicit mitigation plans.	Quantify the impacts associated with the alternatives that have been developed for proposed actions without regard to mitigating the socioeconomic impacts or resolving the conflicts that may arise.	Same as Alternative B.
8008	SR:1 SR:2 SR:3	The BLM's management actions are integrally connected with socioeconomics and must be considered in the NEPA process.	Quantify the impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic actions and provide that information to the impacted parties and overlapping jurisdictions for the purpose of having a better common understanding of the impacts of BLM actions with the explicit goal of mitigating impacts through collaborative management where possible.	Quantify the impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic actions and provide that information to the impacted parties and overlapping jurisdictions for the purpose of having a better common understanding of the impacts of management actions without any explicit mitigation plans.	Quantify the impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic actions for the purpose of providing that information to the impacted parties and overlapping jurisdictions.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-3. Detailed Table of Alternatives (Continued)

8000 Socioeconomic Resources (SR) – Health and Safety						
Record #	**Goal/Obj.**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B**	**Alternative C**	**Alternative D**	**Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)**
Formerly Used Defense Sites						
8009	SR:4 SR:5	On a case-by-case basis, permit commercial use with notification of the risk and requirement to submit a safety plan prior to use of the area.	Restrict and (or) close land uses and public access to areas listed in the FUDS listing.	Restrict and (or) close land uses and public uses identified as high risk until the risk is minimized.	Identify acceptable land uses and public access to areas listed in the FUDS listing.	With the exception of livestock grazing, commercial use would be allowed with notification of the risk and a requirement to submit a safety plan prior to use of the area.

Note: Restrictions on resource uses (e.g., administratively unavailable for leasing) apply to the life of the RMP, but can be changed by amending the RMP. Administratively unavailable for leasing means deferred from leasing for the life of the plan.

AAQS	ambient air quality standards	FM	fire management and ecology	PR	physical resources
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site	PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
AMP	Allotment Management Plan	GIS	Geographic Information System	R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes
ANS	artificial nesting structure	GPS	Global Positioning System	RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
APE	Area of Potential Effect	H_2S	hydrogen sulfide	RMP	Resource Management Plan
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	HMP	Habitat Management Plan	RMU	resource management units
AQD	Air Quality Division	HR	heritage and visual resources	ROD	Record of Decision
AQRV	Air Quality Related Value	IM	Instruction Memorandum	ROW	rights-of-way
ATV	all-terrain vehicle	INPS	Invasive, Nonnative Plant Species	SD	special designations
AUM	animal unit month	KGS	known geologic structure	SDW	Stock driveway
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	LAC	level of acceptable change	SIP	State Implementation Plan
BMP	Best Management Practice	LBA	Lease by Application	MA	Management Area
BR	biological resources	LOC	level of concern	SR	socioeconomic resources
C&MU	Classification & Multiple Use	LR	land resources	SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
CBNG	coalbed natural gas	MBF	thousand board feet	TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
CDPA	Coal Development Potential Area	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	TLS	timing limitation stipulation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	MR	mineral resources	U.S.C.	United States Code
CRMP	Coordinated Resource Management Plan	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
CSU	controlled surface use	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act	USDI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	NHT	National Historic Trail	USFS	U.S. Forest Service
DFC	desired future condition	NPS	National Park Service	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
DPC	desired plant community	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places	USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
EA	Environmental Assessment	NSO	no surface occupancy	VRM	Visual Resource Management
EEA	Environmental Education Area	NSS	Native Species Status	WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	Obj.	objective	WO	Washington Office
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	OHV	off-highway vehicle	WQLS	water quality limited segment
ESA	Endangered Species Act	ORV	off-road vehicle	WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	PFC	proper functioning condition		

2.6 Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Table 2-4 (Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative) summarizes potential meaningful impacts anticipated from activities within the Casper planning area by alternative. Where applicable, potential impacts anticipated from BLM actions are quantified. Table 2-4 summarizes the difference of impacts to alternatives in acres and actions. For example, a greater acreage implies a greater impact (either beneficial or adverse). A more detailed comparison of impacts between alternatives is summarized in the conclusion for each resource section in Chapter 4. Cumulative impacts from non-BLM actions are described in Chapter 4, but are not included in Table 2-4.

The environmental consequences of alternatives are not anticipated to exceed known legal thresholds or standards over the life of the plan. Standard practices, best management practices, and guidelines for surface disturbing activities are built into each alternative to avoid and minimize potential impacts. Mitigation of residual impacts will be considered during subsequent implementation decision plans and any associated environmental analyses conducted at that time. Reclamation will be applied to surface disturbance under all alternatives to reduce the amount of long-term impact.

Table 2-4. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Air Quality					
NAAQS	Not anticipated to exceed except low potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except low potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except low to moderate potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except moderate potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except low to moderate potential for ozone
WAAQS	Not anticipated to exceed except low potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except low potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except low to moderate potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except moderate potential for ozone	Not anticipated to exceed except low to moderate potential for ozone
PSD Deterioration[1]	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential
Visibility Impacts[1]	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential
Atmospheric Deposition[1]	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated
Soil and Water					
Floodplain Impacts	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated
Groundwater Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential
Produced Water Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential
Acres of Surface Disturbance Anticipated	59,990 short-term/ 21,087 long-term	36,650 short-term/ 11,565 long-term	58,689 short-term/ 20,358 long-term	63,649 short-term/ 22,080 long-term	61,274 short-term/ 21,672 long-term
Exceed Water Quality Standards	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated
Minerals					
Acres Open to Oil and Gas and Other Leasables with Major/Moderate Constraints	770,991/ 2,711,404	2,296,267/ 1,196,922	1,113,078/ 2,058,162	662,664/ 2,445,107	843,139/ 2,506,530
Acres of BLM Withdrawals, Classifications, and Segregations	485,993	2,251,435	1,138,689	51,685	409,707
Acres of Other Federal Withdrawals, Classifications, and Segregations	41,589	48,954	48,954	35,266	48,954

Table 2-4. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative *(Continued)*

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Acres Unacceptable for Further Consideration for Coal Leasing	2,266	4,657,172	4,657,172	2,266	2,266
Acres Closed to Disposal of Mineral Materials (Salable)	51,924	737,118	304,620	42,786	257,017
Reduction in Total Wells From Baseline (1988 wells)/ Projected Federal Wells Drilled	8% (1,823)	90% (190)	16% (1,664)	9% (1,800)	9% (1,813)
Vegetation					
Sagebrush, Aspen, and Mountain Shrub Management Impacts	All acres managed for DFC Least Beneficial	All acres managed for DPC Most Beneficial	50% of acres managed for DPC Beneficial	25% of acres managed for DPC Beneficial	All acres managed for DPC Most Beneficial
Acres Managed to Retain Intact Blocks of Native Vegetation	0 Least Beneficial	413,552 Most Beneficial	177,035 Beneficial	0 Least Beneficial	131,879 Beneficial
Riparian/Wetland					
Wetland Impacts	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated
Wetland Permit Required	No	No	No	No	No
Miles of Lotic and Adjacent Riparian Habitat Managed for PFC or DPC	350	350	350	350	350
Acres of Lentic Habitat Managed for PFC or DPC	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Incised Stream Miles Restored	0 Least Beneficial	108 Most Beneficial	75 Beneficial	33 Beneficial	33 Beneficial
INPS					
Acres of Salt Cedar Eradication	0	1,700	1,275	850	0
Fish and Wildlife					
Acres of Fish and Wildlife Reservoirs Developed	0 Least Beneficial	1,000 Most Beneficial	500 Beneficial	100 Beneficial	100 Beneficial
Acres of Big Game CWR Impacted November 15 through April 30	0	0	0	0	0
Special Status Species					
Acre-Feet of Water Depleted in North Platte Watershed	79	2	1,054	272	270
Adverse Effects to ESA Species within the Planning Area	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential
Critical Habitat Impacts	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated	Not anticipated
Heritage					
Eligible/Listed Cultural Sites Impacts	Potential	Lowest potential	Potential	Potential	Potential
Renewable Energy					
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 6 and 7 Exclusion Areas	N/A[2]	89,356	43,919	3,593	31,948
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 6 and 7 Avoidance Areas	N/A[2]	29,768	55,216	71,468	65,099

Table 2-4. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative *(Continued)*

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E (*Proposed RMP*)
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 3, 4 and 5 Exclusion Areas	N/A[2]	817,977	517,831	178,013	331,630
Wind-Energy Development Power Classes 3, 4 and 5 Avoidance Areas	N/A[2]	118,056	221,071	351,293	392,907
Rights-of-Way and Corridors					
Acres Unavailable for Location of ROWs (ROW Exclusion)	208,664	1,099,606	676,193	238,013	442,040
Acres Where ROWs are Restricted in a Minor Way (ROW Avoidance)	723,619	167,379	311,758	489,922	539,799
OHV Use					
Acres Closed to OHV Use	2,661	26,027	7,943	2,661	2,224
Acres Open to OHV Use	187	242	285	285	285
Acres Limited to Existing Roads and Trails	1.311,715	909,651	1,162,113	1,292,630	1,162,244
Acres Limited to Designated Roads and Trails	47,014	425,657	191,236	66,001	196,824
Livestock Grazing					
AUMs Projected/Change from Baseline (182,479)	179,977 1% decrease	181,247 1% decrease	180,075 1% decrease	179,845 1% decrease	179,899 1% decrease
Visual Resources					
Acres VRM Class II	109,827	408,576	367,151	205,542	367,151
Acres VRM Class III	210,258	415,458	433,799	548,780	433,799
Acres VRM Class IV	953,543	537,543	560,627	607,255	560,627
Special Designations and Other MAs					
Number and Acres of Special Designations or Other MAs Focusing on Resource Conservation	***2 ACECs*** 81,680 BLM AS 213,774 BLM FME	***7 ACECs*** 255,168 BLM AS 487,757 BLM FME	***5 ACECs*** 92,452 BLM AS 242,265 BLM FME	***1 ACEC*** 4,114 BLM AS 10,546 BLM FME	***2 ACECs*** 9,435 BLM AS 17,192 BLM FME
	0 MAs	***2 MAs*** 175,656 BLM AS 306,137 BLM FME	***4 MAs*** 394,292 BLM AS 632,985 BLM FME	***1 MA*** 5,282 BLM AS 5,805 BLM FME	***2 MAs*** 231,601 BLM AS 382,050 BLM FME
Number and Acres of Special Designations or Other MAs Focusing on Resource Development	***0 ACECs***	***0 ACECs***	***0 ACECs***	***0 ACECs***	***0 ACECs***
	0 MAs	***0 MAs***	***2 MAs*** 119,726 BLM AS 255,724 BLM FME	***2 MAs*** 248,854 BLM AS 526,035 BLM FME	***2 MAs*** 37,602 BLM AS 66,530 BLM FME
National Historic Trails and Other Historic Trails					
Impacts to NHTs and Other Historic Trails	Potential	Lowest potential	Potential	Potential	Potential

Notes: Based upon the programmatic and strategic nature of the RMP alternatives, this table reflects the potential for environmental consequences.
Administratively unavailable for leasing means deferred from leasing for the life of the plan.
[1] These impacts anticipated to occur outside the planning area.
[2] Alternative A: renewable-energy avoidance areas for all power classes = 723,619 acres
Alternative A: renewable-energy exclusion areas for all power classes = 208,664 acres

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
AUM	animal unit month	N/A	Not Applicable
AS	Administered Surface	NHT	National Historic Trail
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	OHV	off-highway vehicle
CWR	Crucial Winter Range	PFC	Proper Functioning Condition
DFC	Desired Future Condition	PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
DPC	Desired Plant Community	ROW	rights-of-way
ESA	Endangered Species Act	MA	Management Area
FME	federal mineral estate	VRM	Visual Resource Management
INPS	Invasive, Nonnative Plant Species	WAAQS	Wyoming Ambient Air Quality Standards