

BLM-3171



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Kemmerer Field Office  
312 Highway 189N  
Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101-9711



In Reply Refer to:  
1610/Kemmerer RMP

Dear Stakeholder/Interested Party:

Attached you will find copies of the evaluations of 10 areas nominated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) during the scoping process for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Kemmerer Resource Management Plan revision. The evaluations assess whether nominations meet the relevance and importance criteria as provided in *BLM Manual 1613 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*.

Ten areas were proposed for consideration as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): the Transcontinental Railroad; Raymond Mountain Expansion Area; the Dry Fork, Upper Tributary, and Lower Tributary watersheds; Bridger Butte; White-tailed Prairie Dog colonies; the Fossil Basin; Special status plant species habitats; and Cushion plant communities. The BLM found that nine of these areas meet relevance and importance criteria and effects of including these proposals were analyzed. One (Transcontinental Railroad) did not meet relevance criteria for ACEC consideration. Currently one ACEC, Raymond Mountain, exists within the planning area. This area was included for consideration of retention. Since the RMP is a comprehensive land use planning document, management of the nominated values will be addressed in the RMP revision.

You submitted an area for consideration as a public nomination. This letter with attached evaluations provides the notice required in *BLM Manual 1613 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern* as to whether your nomination met the relevance and importance criteria to move forward as a potential ACEC. The opportunity to comment on areas dropped from further consideration runs concurrent with the 90-day review and comment period on the Draft RMP and EIS or from July 13 to October 11, 2007. During this 90-day comment period, the public may comment on any aspect of the ACEC evaluation, including the relevance **and** importance evaluations, the projected need for special management attention, the analysis of impacts of allowable resource uses on the values of proposed ACECs, and the impact of ACEC management prescriptions or limitations on other resource uses.

Thank you for your participation in this phase of the planning process. We **look** forward to your continued involvement in the Kemmerer RMP revision.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Rugwell  
Field Manager, Kemmerer

Attachment  
ACEC Evaluations

## ACEC Nomination/Documentation

Area Name	Internal	External	Nominator	Reference/Date	Disposition
Raymond Mountain ACEC (Existing)	X		BLM KFO Staff	1986 RMP/MSA (Continue per existing management.)	Included for consideration
Raymond Mountain Expansion		X	WY G&F Dept	Letter Bill Wichers, Deputy Director WYG&F Dept / May 11, 2004	Included for consideration
Special Status Plant Species Habitat	X		BLM KFO Botanist	IDT meeting. Considered in addition to documentation for Bridger Butte nomination re: SSS Plants/August 25, 2004	Included for consideration
Cushion Plant Communities	X		BLM KFO Botanist	IDT meeting. Considered in addition to documentation for Bridger Butte nomination re: SSS Plants/August 25, 2004	Included for consideration
Bridger Butte		X	Sierra Club	Scoping comment letter/January 9, 2004	Included for consideration
Fossil Basin		X	Sierra Club	Scoping comment letter/January 9, 2004	Included for consideration as modified
UPRR Line		X	Sierra Club	Scoping comment letter/January 9, 2004	Eliminated from consideration
White-Tailed Prairie Dog Complexes		X	Center for Native Ecosystems	Letter to Kemmerer Field Manager/January 21, 2003	Included for consideration
Dry Fork Watershed		X	WY G&F Dept	Letter Bill Wichers, Deputy Director WYG&F Dept/May 11, 2004	Included for consideration
Upper Tributary Watershed		X	WY G&F Dept	Letter Bill Wichers, Deputy Director WYG&F Dept / May 11, 2004	Included for consideration
Lower Tributary Watershed		X	WY G&F Dept	Letter Bill Wichers, Deputy Director WYG&F Dept / May 11, 2004	Included for consideration
Rock Creek/Tunp (Formerly Dempsey Ridge/Tunp)	X		BLM KFO Staff	Alternatives Workshop 2, Kemmerer WY/February 2004	Included as modified (no ACEC)
Bear River Divide	X		BLM KFO Staff	Alternatives Workshop 2, Kemmerer WY/February 2004	Included as modified (no ACEC)

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Lower Tributaries of the Smithsfork (Bear River drainage)</b>
<b>General Location</b>	North of Cokeville, WY; Southwest of Bridger-Teton Forest Boundary
<b>General Description</b>	
<b>Acreage</b>	1,372 acres
<b>Values Considered</b>	fish & wildlife

<b>IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA</b>		
<p>To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.</p>		
<p><b>Relevance:</b>  <b>An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:</b></p>		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p><b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	No	
<p><b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>*This area provides yearlong habitat for all life stages (spawning, rearing, juvenile, and adult) of core conservation populations (&lt;1% introgressed) of Bonneville cutthroat trout (BRC). These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.                      *The area also provides habitat for one of the strongest known populations of leatherside chub. The WGFDD has categorized the leatherside chub as Status 1 species.                      *Moose and elk winter range.                      *Yearlong habitat for sage grouse. Contains active leks. Portions of the area may also provide sage grouse winter habitat.                      *Lynx also may inhabit this area</p>
<p><b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	Yes	<p>*Mule deer migration corridor.</p>
<p><b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process</p>	N/A	

<b>Importance</b> The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	* Pure population of Bonneville cutthroat trout which is currently listed as a WY BLM Sensitive Species
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	*These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.  WGFD Status 1 species habitat for leatherside chub: Status 1 species are physically isolated and/or exist at extremely low densities throughout their range, and habitat conditions are declining or vulnerable.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	No	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area for the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. Recommended management per adjacent BLM lands with priority consideration of riparian/wetland management actions.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Fossil Basin (Fossil Lake) ACEC</b>
<b>General Location</b>	Lincoln/Uinta Counties (North-South geologic basin to the WY/UT state line)
<b>General Description</b>	Fossil lake
<b>Acreage</b>	451,452 (total) (201,660 acres BLM administered)
<b>Values Considered</b>	Fossil fish paleontological resources

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**

**An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	*World-class paleontological resources. Rare fossils from Green River formation.  *Fossil Butte National Monument viewshed;
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	* Sage obligate habitat.  Note: Overlaps Dempsey/Tunp/Bear River Divide area and shares resource values.
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	
<b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process	No	

<b>Importance</b>		
<b>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	Yes	*Internationally recognized fossil bed.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	*Rare fossil "lake" with extensive fossil resource.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	No	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area as a unique and acclaimed fossil bearing structure. The expansive area proposed for ACEC consideration may prevent effective management. In addition, total exclusion from development may not be productive to discovery of the fossil resource. Recommended management per adjacent BLM lands.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Dry Fork of the Smith Fork Watershed (Bear River drainage)</b>
<b>General Location</b>	North of Cokeville, WY; Southwest of Bridger-Teton Forest Boundary
<b>General Description</b>	
<b>Acreage</b>	4,689 acres
<b>Values Considered</b>	Scenic, fish & wildlife

<b>IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA</b>		
<p>To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.</p>		
<p><b>Relevance:</b>  <b>An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:</b></p>		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p><b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	YES	<p>*Stream reaches in this area were determined under the Wild and Scenic River Review for the KFO to have outstandingly remarkable scenic value.</p>
<p><b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	YES	<p>*This area provides yearlong habitat for all life stages (spawning, rearing, juvenile, and adult) of core conservation populations (&lt;1% introgressed) of Bonneville cutthroat trout (BRC). These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.                      *The area also provides habitat for one of the strongest known populations of leatherside chub. The WGFD has categorized the leatherside chub as Status 1 species.                      *Moose winter range.                      *Yearlong habitat for sage grouse. Portions of the area may also provide sage grouse winter habitat.                      *Lynx also may inhabit this area</p>
<p><b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	YES	<p>*This area provides yearlong habitat for all life stages (spawning, rearing, juvenile, and adult) of core conservation populations (&lt;1% introgressed) of Bonneville cutthroat trout (BRC). These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.</p>
<p><b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process</p>	N/A	

<b>Importance</b> The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	* Pure population of Bonneville cutthroat trout which is currently listed as a WY BLM Sensitive Species
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.  WGFDF Status 1 species habitat for leatherside chub: Status 1 species are physically isolated and/or exist at extremely low densities throughout their range, and habitat conditions are declining or vulnerable.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	NO	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area for the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. Recommended management per adjacent BLM lands with priority consideration of riparian/wetland management actions.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Upper Smithsfork and Tributaries (Bear River drainage)</b>
<b>General Location</b>	North of Cokeville, WY; Southwest of Bridger-Teton Forest Boundary
<b>General Description</b>	
<b>Acreage</b>	5,595 acres
<b>Values Considered</b>	fish & wildlife, natural process

<b>IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA</b>		
<p>To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.</p>		
<p><b>Relevance:</b>  <b>An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:</b></p>		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p><b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	No	
<p><b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>*This area provides yearlong habitat for all life stages (spawning, rearing, juvenile, and adult) of core conservation populations (&lt;1% introgressed) of Bonneville cutthroat trout (BRC). These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.                      *The area also provides habitat for one of the strongest known populations of leatherside chub. The WGFD has categorized the leatherside chub as Status 1 species.                      *Moose and elk winter range.                      *Portions of the area may provide sage grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat.                      *Lynx also may inhabit this area</p>
<p><b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).</p>	Yes	<p>*Mule deer migration corridor.</p>
<p><b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process</p>	N/A	

<b>Importance</b> The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	Yes	* Pure population of Bonneville cutthroat trout which is currently listed as a WY BLM Sensitive Species
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	*These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.  WGFD Status 1 species habitat for leatherside chub: Status 1 species are physically isolated and/or exist at extremely low densities throughout their range, and habitat conditions are declining or vulnerable.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	No	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area for the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. Recommended management per adjacent BLM lands with priority consideration of riparian/wetland management actions.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Raymond MTN ACEC (Existing from 1986 RMP)</b>
<b>General Location</b>	North of Cokeville
<b>General Description</b>	Spectacular scenery, sensitive wildlife habitats & winter ranges
<b>Acreage</b>	13930
<b>Values Considered</b>	scenic, fish & wildlife, natural processes

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**

**An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	*Raymond MTN provides opportunities for public interpretation & appreciation of wilderness & Watchable Wildlife; *VRM “Scenery A” scenic qualities
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	*Crucial big game winter range(13,500 acres for elk, moose, and mule deer) *Suitable habitat for threatened, grizzly bear, gray wolf & bald eagle; *WY Grizzly Bear Management Area; *WY Audubon Society Important Bird Area; *Potential Long-eared Myotis bat habitat; *Greater Sage Grouse habitat *Streams support genetically pure population of Bonneville cutthroat trout
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	*Crucial big game winter range supports a portion of the only elk herd in western Wyoming not supplemented by feedgrounds; *Big game migration route; *Raptor migration corridor, *Important spawning and nursery area for genetically pure population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout; *Encompasses wide range of vegetation communities, from sagebrush steppe through montane forest communities;
<b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process	YES	* avalanche areas

<b>Importance</b>		
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<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	* Pure population of Bonneville cutthroat trout which is currently listed as a WY BLM Sensitive Species *Solid block BLM lands with open access provides for non-motorized recreational opportunities; *Sensitive Species include: Bonneville Cutthroat trout, Pygmy Rabbit, Idaho Pocket Gopher, Northern Goshawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Greater Sage Grouse, Long-eared Myotis
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	*W. Green River elk herd is the only one in W WY not sustained by feedlots, consequently there is a low incidence of <i>brucellosis</i> ;  *These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.  *WGFD Status 1 species habitat for leatherside chub: Status 1 species are physically isolated and/or exist at extremely low densities throughout their range, and habitat conditions are declining or vulnerable.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	YES	*High potential for Avalanches
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	NO	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the current ACEC as a critical habitat area for the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. Continued management of the area as an ACEC would be the best use for the area of consideration.

## ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Kemmerer Field Office – RMP Process

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>DEMPSEY HISTORIC NATURAL AREA</b>
<b>General Location</b>	Northwest of Kemmerer
<b>General Description</b>	National Historic Trails & associated sites; wildlife habitats & winter ranges
<b>Acreage</b>	145,000
<b>Values Considered</b>	Historic, cultural, scenic, fish & wildlife, natural processes, natural hazards

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

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**Relevance:**

**An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Sublette Cutoff &amp; Dempsey-Hockaday National Historic Trail traces;</li> <li>*Emigrant Spring/Dempsey emigrant camp;</li> <li>*Several emigrant graves (Nancy Hill, Alfred Corum, others);</li> <li>*Three trail landmark sites (Rock Slide, White Hill, Pine Grove);</li> <li>*Four interpretive signs (White Hill, Nancy Hill &amp; Alfred Corum graves, Emigrant Spring) and Dempsey Basin Allotment signs;</li> <li>*Boulder Ridge Cairns Native American sensitive site;</li> <li>*VRM Class II scenic qualities;</li> <li>*Proposed Scenic Backcountry Byway;</li> <li>*Fossil Butte National Monument viewshed;</li> <li>*Fossil fish paleontological resources, internationally renowned</li> </ul>
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Crucial winter range(~107,000 acres for elk, 84,000 acres for deer, 64,000 acres for moose,and 10,000 acres for antelope) *supports a major portion of the only elk herd in W WY not sustained by feedgrounds;</li> <li>*Seasonal habitats for many WY BLM sensitive sagebrush obligate species including sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, sage thrasher, sage sparrow, brewer’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike;</li> <li>*Suitable habitat for threatened Canada lynx, gray wolf and grizzly bear;</li> <li>*Dempsey Ridge Lynx Analysis Unit;</li> <li>*WY Grizzly Bear Management Area;</li> <li>*Morgan Canyon Bald eagle roost;</li> <li>*WY Audubon Society Important Bird Area;</li> <li>*Bonneville cutthroat trout streams</li> </ul>
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Big game migration route;</li> <li>*Raptor migration corridor;</li> <li>*Major elk parturition area</li> <li>*Healthy sustained winter range will alleviate impacts to domestic livestock by threatened gray wolf;</li> <li>*Provides water for the Bonneville cutthroat trout within the Bear River system, and 4 endangered Colorado River fishes;</li> <li>*Encompasses large range of vegetation communities, from sagebrush steppe through montane forest</li> </ul>

		*Contains several small endemic communities of the BLM sensitive <i>Physaria dornii</i> and <i>Physaria condensata</i> plant species;
<b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process)	YES?	Seismic activity in the active Rock Creek Fault

<b>Importance</b> The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	*National Historic Trail resources are nationally significant, causing concern due to poorer condition of similar resources; *Fossil fish paleontological resources are internationally significant & distinctive, meriting preservation; *Large blocks of BLM lands with legal access provides numerous outdoor recreational opportunities *Area is nationally known for its tremendous trophy potential for Mule deer and Moose
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	* National Historic Trail resources are fragile, irreplaceable, exemplary and threatened by energy development; *Boulder Ridge Cairns are sensitive to Native Americans, irreplaceable and vulnerable to adverse change; *One of largest continuous blocks of unfragmented winter range which supports high density of migrating and wintering big game animals; **Exceptional Mule Deer winter range providing winter habitat for deer migrating from as far as Jackson, WY *W. Green River elk herd is the only one in W WY not sustained by feedlots, consequently there is a low incidence of <i>brucellosis</i> ;
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	H2S potential in Oil & Gas leases
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance criteria. Although the National Historic Trails are nationally significant, the national significance of the proposal in its

entirety is unknown. The BLM does not recommend this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision. The area is recommended for additional management prescriptions to protect the surface resources for the life of the plan.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area due to the multiple overlapping surface resource concerns. Concur with additional management prescriptions to protect the unique surface resources throughout the life of the proposed management plan.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Special Status Plant Species ACEC/RNA</b>
<b>General Location</b>	Various locations throughout the field office
<b>General Description</b>	Sparsely vegetated ridges/outcrops
<b>Acreage</b>	Approximately 880 acres (currently identified)
<b>Values Considered</b>	Rare/special status plant species

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	*Sensitive plant species locations including the following species of concern: Trelease’s Milkvetch ( <i>Astragalus racemosus</i> var. <i>treleasei</i> ), Entire-Leaved Peppergrass ( <i>Lepidium integrifolium</i> var. <i>integrifolium</i> ), Large-fruited Bladderpod ( <i>Lesquerella macrocarpa</i> ), Western Bladderpod ( <i>Lesquerella multiceps</i> ), Prostrate Bladderpod ( <i>Lesquerella prostrata</i> ), Beaver Rim Phlox ( <i>Phlox pungens</i> ), Tufted Twinpod ( <i>Physaria condensata</i> ), and Dorn’s Twinpod ( <i>Physaria dornii</i> ).

<p><b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process</p>	<p>No</p>	
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**Importance**  
**The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:**

<p><b>Importance Value</b></p>	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p>	<p><b>Rationale for Determination</b></p>
<p>Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>*Sensitive plant species, rare and unique to specific habitats. Extremely sensitive to change and vulnerable to disturbance.</p>
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property</p>	<p>No</p>	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed species habitats to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC/RNA in the current resource management plan revision. The proposed special status plant species ACEC/RNA consists of possible habitat for eight plant species known to exist in the Kemmerer Field Office area. Identified habitat areas will be assessed during the life of the plan for addition to the ACEC.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager concurs with staff recommendations for inclusion of the proposed ACEC in the management plan revision.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Raymond MTN Scenic Wildlife ACEC Expansion</b>
<b>General Location</b>	North of Cokeville
<b>General Description</b>	Spectacular scenery, sensitive wildlife habitats & winter ranges
<b>Acreage</b>	From 13530 to 36000
<b>Values Considered</b>	scenic, fish & wildlife, natural processes

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**

**An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	*Raymond MTN provides opportunities for public interpretation & appreciation of wilderness & Watchable Wildlife; *VRM Class I scenic qualities
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	*Crucial big game winter range(20,000 acres for elk, 22,000 acres for moose, 7,000 acres for mule deer) *Suitable habitat for threatened, grizzly bear, gray wolf & bald eagle; *WY Grizzly Bear Management Area; *WY Audubon Society Important Bird Area; *Potential Long-eared Myotis bat habitat; *Greater Sage Grouse habitat *Streams support genetically pure population of Bonneville cutthroat trout
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	*Crucial big game winter range supports a portion of the only elk herd in western Wyoming not supplemented by feedgrounds; *Big game migration route; *Raptor migration corridor, *Important spawning and nursery area for genetically pure population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout; *Encompasses wide range of vegetation communities, from sagebrush steppe through montane forest communities;
<b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process	YES	* avalanche areas

<b>Importance</b>		
<b>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	* Pure population of Bonneville cutthroat trout which is currently listed as a WY BLM Sensitive Species *Solid block BLM lands with open access provides for non-motorized recreational opportunities; *Sensitive Species include: Bonneville Cutthroat trout, Rabbit Pygmy, Idaho Pocket Gopher, Northern Goshawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Sage Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Greater Sage Grouse, Long-eared Myotis
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	*W. Green River elk herd is the only one in W WY not sustained by feedlots, consequently there is a low incidence of <i>brucellosis</i> ;  *These tributaries along with the main stem of the Smiths Fork River provide primary spawning habitat for fluvial and resident BRC populations.  *WGFD Status 1 species habitat for leatherside chub: Status 1 species are physically isolated and/or exist at extremely low densities throughout their range, and habitat conditions are declining or vulnerable.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.		
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	YES	*High potential for Avalanches *Mine portal along Raymond Canyon trail;
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	NO	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area for the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. Recommended management per adjacent BLM lands with priority consideration of riparian/wetland management actions.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Cushion Plant Communities ACEC/RNA</b>
<b>General Location</b>	Various locations throughout the field office
<b>General Description</b>	Specialized regional endemic plant communities
<b>Acreage</b>	Approximately 67 acres (currently identified)
<b>Values Considered</b>	Rare/special status plant species

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**

**An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	*Uncommon, specialized regional endemic plant species existing in association. Typical associates found in these areas include different species of phlox, twinpods, bladderpods, and many legume species.

<p><b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process</p>	<p>No</p>	
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<p><b>Importance</b>  <b>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</b></p>		
<p><b>Importance Value</b></p>	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p>	<p><b>Rationale for Determination</b></p>
<p>Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>*Associated plant communities are rare and very vulnerable to surface disturbance and have a slow recovery time. Usually 50 years or more are needed to restore the communities to their original native state after disturbance.</p> <p>*Only one current known endemic cushion plant community exists northeast of Kemmerer and would be included in the ACEC. This cushion plant community with seven endemic species represents the best example of plant response to the harsh conditions found in Wyoming.</p>
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property</p>	<p>No</p>	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed cushion plant communities to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC/RNA in the current resource management plan revision. The proposed cushion plant community ACEC/RNA consists of the current endemic community known to exist in the Kemmerer Field Office area. Identified habitat areas will be assessed during the life of the plan for addition to the ACEC.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager concurs with staff recommendations for inclusion of the proposed ACEC in the management plan revision.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Bridger Butte</b>
<b>General Location</b>	South of I-80 between Lyman and Evanston
<b>General Description</b>	Butte, landform, landmark
<b>Acreage</b>	2,800 acres (at largest extent)
<b>Values Considered</b>	Historic trails landmark, Native American significance, Special Status Plant communities

#### IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

#### Relevance:

An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	<p><u>As Landmark on National Historic Trails:</u> Historical accounts and emigrant diaries repeatedly refer to Bridger Butte as an important landmark that signified their approach to Fort Bridger, a highly significant rest stop where supplies could be restocked on their journey west.</p> <p><u>To Native American Tribes:</u> The Eastern Shoshone, Shoshone-Bannock, Northern Arapaho and Northern Utes have identified Bridger Butte as a prominent landmark because of the Native American perception of the world as landscapes on which conspicuous topographic features serve as guides in their passage through the region. Stone features are present on the top of Bridger Butte as evidence of its use by Native Americans for religious ceremonies. Bridger Butte is also important to local Native Americans because it served as a landmark for Fort Bridger, an important gathering point for tribes during the late nineteenth century, where the 1968 Fort Bridger Treaty was signed.</p>
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	Yes	<i>Physaria dornii</i> community.

<p><b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process</p>	<p>No</p>	
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**Importance**  
**The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:**

<p><b>Importance Value</b></p>	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p>	<p><b>Rationale for Determination</b></p>
<p>Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>National significance of historic landmark of the emigrant trails. Landmark feature of significance to Indian Nations.</p>
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Vulnerable due to land pattern.</p>
<p>Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.</p>	<p>No</p>	
<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property</p>	<p>No</p>	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed ACEC as a nationally significant cultural and historic area with corresponding Native American significance. Recommend management of the area as an ACEC.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>White Tailed Prairie Dog Communities</b>
<b>General Location</b>	Various locations – Sweetwater/Lincoln/Uinta Counties
<b>General Description</b>	White Tailed Prairie Dog complexes greater than 5,000 acres
<b>Acres</b>	Three complexes totaling 1,187,309 acres (605,791 acres BLM jurisdiction)
<b>Values Considered</b>	Prairie dog habitat/black footed ferret habitat

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**

**An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	*Habitat for sensitive white-tailed prairie dogs.  *Sage grouse and sage obligate species habitat.  *Potential habitat for black footed ferret.
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	
<b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process	No	

<b>Importance</b>		
<b>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	Yes	*Prairie dogs recognized nationally as a species of concern.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	No	

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance and Importance criteria and recommends this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area for the White Tailed Prairie Dog. The expansive areas proposed for ACEC consideration along with the varied ownership pattern (checkerboard) prevent effective large-scale management. Recommended management per adjacent BLM lands with additional consideration of management actions that avoid habitat disruption.

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>Original Transcontinental Railroad Route</b>
<b>General Location</b>	Various locations - Sweetwater/Lincoln/Uinta Counties
<b>General Description</b>	½ mile either side of original route
<b>Acreage</b>	unknown
<b>Values Considered</b>	Historic railroad route and associated landmarks

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**

**An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	*Significant historical transportation route.
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	No	
<b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process	No	

<b>Importance</b> The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	Yes	*Nationally significant route for westward expansion.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	*The original route is almost non-existent in its original form. The route now exists either as modern rail line or is under upgraded county road.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	No	

Findings: There is very little of this line on BLM controlled surface. The BLM does not recommend to be considered for ACEC designation for the following reasons: 1) The current condition of the rail line does not merit protection; 2) BLM cannot manage portions of the rail line on private/state surface; 3) Standard regulatory processes will sufficiently protect the small amount of historic line that does exist on BLM surface.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the relevance of the original transcontinental railroad route as a landmark in history. However, due to the current condition and location of the proposed ACEC, I concur with the Kemmerer Field Office staff recommendations to eliminate this proposal from further consideration as an ACEC for this planning effort.

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Kemmerer Field Office – RMP Process

<b>Area Considered</b>	<b>BEAR RIVER DIVIDE MANAGEMENT AREA</b>
<b>General Location</b>	Southwest of Kemmerer
<b>General Description</b>	National Historic Trails & associated sites; wildlife habitats & winter ranges
<b>Acreage</b>	182,000 acres
<b>Values Considered</b>	Historic, cultural, scenic, fish & wildlife, natural processes, natural hazards

**IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA**

To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.

**Relevance:**  
**An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:**

<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
<b>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value</b> (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	*Oregon-California National Historic Trail traces; *Bear River Divide Trail Landmark site; *Fossil Butte National Monument viewshed; *Fossil fish paleontological resources, internationally renowned
<b>A fish and wildlife resource</b> (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	*Crucial big game winter range(~88,000 acres for deer, 21,000 acres for elk, 4500 acres for antelope) * supports a portion of the only elk herd in western Wyoming not supplemented with feed-grounds; *Seasonal habitats for many WY BLM sensitive sagebrush obligate species including sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, sage thrasher, sage sparrow, brewer’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike; *Potential habitat for threatened gray wolf, and Ute Ladies’-tresses *Nugget Canyon & Woodruff Narrows Bald eagle winter roosts; *WY Audubon Society Important Bird Area; *Potential Bonneville cutthroat trout streams
<b>A natural process or system</b> (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	*Major big game migration route; *Raptor migration corridor; *Provides water for the Bonneville cutthroat trout within the Bear River system, and 4 endangered Colorado River fishes; *Encompasses large range of vegetation communities, from sagebrush steppe through mountain shrub plant communities;
<b>Natural hazards</b> (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process	NO	

<b>Importance</b>		
<b>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	*National Historic Trail resources are nationally significant, causing concern due to poorer condition of similar resources; *Fossil fish paleontological resources are internationally significant & distinctive, meriting preservation; *Large, contiguous blocks of BLM lands with legal access provides for exceptional outdoor recreational opportunities *Area is known nationally for Mule Deer trophy potential
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	*National Historic Trail resources are fragile, irreplaceable, exemplary and threatened by energy development; *One of largest continuous blocks of unfragmented winter range, consequently it supports high density of wintering big game animals; *Exceptional Mule Deer winter range providing winter habitat for deer migrating from as far as Jackson, WY
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	NO	H2S in Oil & Gas fields, gas plants (Carter Creek, Road Hollow, Whitney Canyon) & surface pipelines

Findings: The Kemmerer Field Office considers the proposed area to meet Relevance criteria. Although the National Historic Trails are nationally significant, the national significance of the proposal in its entirety is unknown. The BLM does not recommend this area for inclusion as a potential ACEC in the current resource management plan revision. The area is recommended for additional management prescriptions to protect the surface resources for the life of the plan.

Field Manager Recommendation for the Preferred Alternative: Kemmerer Field Manager recognizes the importance of the proposed area due to the multiple overlapping surface resource concerns. Concur with additional management prescriptions to protect the unique surface resources throughout the life of the proposed management plan.