

Lander Resource Management Plan

Fact Sheet

General

- The Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP) represents a collaborative, landscape-level, science-driven approach to managing natural, cultural, and historic resources on the nation's public lands.
- The Lander RMP is the BLM's first plan to address management of important Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. In addition, the Lander plan protects the setting of five congressionally designated scenic and historic trails and establishes the BLM's first-ever master leasing plan, which is designed to balance development of energy resources while protecting important lands and natural areas.
- The Lander RMP updates a nearly 30-year old document and provides direction for managing approximately 2.4 million acres of BLM-administered surface land and 2.8 million acres of BLM-administered sub-surface mineral estate, primarily in Fremont County, Wyoming for the next 10-15 years.
- The revision process began in 2007 and involved extensive collaboration with many cooperating agencies and members of the public.

Master Leasing Plan and Targeted Oil and Gas Development

- With the Lander RMP, the BLM implemented an innovative tool called Master Leasing Planning. This new approach is designed to manage oil and gas activity in areas with high potential for resource conflicts. Instead of the BLM's historical approach of accepting leasing proposals as they are nominated by industry, The Master Leasing Plan is specifically designed to resolve resource conflicts up front with the help of a wide range of stakeholders to promote smart planning before leasing and development begin.
- The Beaver Rim area is particularly well-suited for an MLP because of its high value resources and its location adjoining two designated development areas. It has unusual geology including paleontological resources, spectacular viewsheds, raptors, wild horses, wildlife values and important Native American sites which are protected through the use of an MLP.
- In the Dubois area, which is adjacent to the Wind River Indian Reservation, the analysis determined that the area's many resource values could not be protected by an MLP. Instead, the area was closed to leasing, a decision which is supported in the community and complementary with the management goals of adjoining U.S. Forest Service wilderness and tribal lands.
- Oil and gas is the most important economic driver locally and regionally. In areas of high mineral potential, the RMP established three designated development areas that emphasize mineral use.



- Two of these areas contain the entire moderate to high potential for oil and gas in the planning area. The third area has been mined for uranium since the early 1950s and contains an approved *in situ* uranium mine. All of the designated development areas are outside of core sage-grouse habitat.

Scenic and Historic Trails

- The planning area contains segments of one National Scenic Trail (Continental Divide) and four National Historic Trails (California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon and Pony Express) that are widely considered to be among the most pristine and intact in the country.
- The Lander RMP establishes a National Trails Management Corridor of almost 500,000 acres to protect the setting, nature and purpose of the five congressionally designated trails and to facilitate trail based recreation.
- Rather than implementing a continuous offset or buffer along the trails, the BLM used an innovative visual resource driven program that analyzed what could be seen from the trails and the special high interest places along the trails. The BLM expects the National Trails Management Corridor outlined in the RMP to serve as a model for other land management plans.

Wild Horses

- The RMP does not make changes to the management of the seven Lander Field Office wild horse herd management areas.

Greater Sage-Grouse

- The Lander planning area is important Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) habitat with 99 percent of BLM managed lands having occupied GRSG habitat and 70 percent (2.16 million acres) containing priority habitat.
- The Lander RMP is consistent with the Wyoming Governor's 2011 Executive Order on the management of GRSG Core Area, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers to be an adequate regulatory mechanism for conserving GRSG within state boundaries.
- This RMP steers development outside of core areas for sage-grouse and employs components of the Wyoming core strategy to limit density in and disturbance to important habitat and nesting and breeding grounds.
- In order to avoid surface-disturbing activities in core areas, priority will be given to development of oil and gas and other mineral resources outside of core areas, subject to applicable stipulations. When authorizing development of oil and gas and other mineral resources in core habitat, subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of greater

sage-grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for sage-grouse.

- In the 1.68 million acres of core area in the field office, 860,000 acres are closed to oil and gas leasing or managed with no surface occupancy stipulations (approximately 51 percent).
- The Lander RMP conserves priority GRSB habitat through the following measures:
 - Designates and applies management in core areas, which geographically align with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service GRSB Conservation Objectives Report's priority areas for conservation or priority habitats.
 - Protects this core area through limits on disturbance density and intensity; an average of one well energy and mining location per 640 acres and a five percent disturbance threshold that includes wildland fire and disturbance on State and private lands.
 - Limits noise sources to ten decibels above natural ambient noise measured at the perimeter of occupied GRSB leks from March 1 to May 15, unless scientific findings indicate a different noise level is appropriate. In addition, limits noise sources in other important GRSB habitats if research and/or policy indicate the need.
 - Recommends a large portion of core area for withdrawal from mineral entry.
 - Excludes wind energy development from core area. Solar energy development and coal leasing would require a land use plan amendment.
 - Avoids transmission and distribution lines in core area. Transmission lines must be within designated corridors or within ½ mile of existing 115 kV or larger lines. Distribution lines are to be buried where feasible.
 - Strictly limits the use of prescribed fire in areas receiving less than 12 inches of annual precipitation.
 - Limits motorized travel to designated roads and trails. New or upgraded roads must be further than 1.9 miles from leks.
 - Uses required design features for a variety of programs and resource uses, including facilities and surface disturbance, vegetation treatment and fuels management, impoundment pond design, roads, and fire suppression.