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## **LANDER RMP ISSUES**

### **GENERAL COMMENT**

Decisions for the Lander RMP revision need to meet the intent of the FLMPA mandate to manage the public lands in a productive and sustainable manner. Lands in need of restoration should receive decisions that return these lands to a productive and sustainable condition.

### **RECREATION**

Designate Cedar Ridge (Johnny Behind the Rock) trails and two track road as a non-motorized use area (hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking) community based SRMA.

Designate Baldwin Creek Road (“The Bus”) trails and two-track roads as a non-motorized use area (hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking) community based SRMA.

Designate Beaver Creek Ski Area as a non-motorized winter use area (exception granted for grooming equipment). Summer use OHV designation limited to designated roads. Non-motorized uses (i.e., hiking, equestrian, mountain biking) permitted on game and livestock trails as well as two-track roads.

Current winter closure of Red Canyon elk habitat area to non-motorized uses (i.e., cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking) should be re-evaluated to allow for over-snow uses during non-critical wildlife habitat timeframes.

### **VRM**

Complete decisions on VRM classifications FO-wide.

### **OHV**

Consider designation of OHV use areas at Coal Mine Draw & along Dubois dump road (north side of county road). By providing designated use areas and effective law enforcement OHV impacts may be reduced in Government Draw area and Dubois Badlands WSA.

Determine appropriate OHV cross country use in laying out seismic operations, O&G, range management, and other so-called necessary tasks. (i.e., fence maintenance – yes; livestock gathering/herding – no)

Designate OHV uses closed/limited to designated or existing routes on Lander Slope, Green Mountain, and Whiskey Mountain.

## **WILDERNESS**

Sweetwater Canyon WSA

Remove grazing

Close all two-tracks within the WSA to motorized use

Dubois Badlands WSA

Extensive OHV impacts in Mason Draw and vicinity. See OHV comment for possible mitigation of impacts to WSA.

Sweetwater Rocks WSAs (4)

Withdrawal locatable minerals from WSAs

Decision of no sale of granite within WSAs (i.e., prevent granite quarries from WSAs as almost happened within the past five years)

## **WILD & SCENIC RIVERS**

Suitability & eligibility completed by FO in 2003(?). Study should be open up for public comment and possible additions.

Designate Sweetwater River and tributaries within Sweetwater Canyon WSA as Wild.

Designate Baldwin Creek upper segment as Scenic and lower segment as Wild (may have these backwards).

Re-look at Warm Springs Creek (near Dubois) as both eligible/suitable as WSR due to adjacent FS recommendation of WSR status of portion within forest. BLM portion has historic flume values.

## **RANGE**

Rangeland improvements (fencing and water wells) should be limited to those necessary to restore rangeland health. Don't fence vast open (fenceless) areas (i.e., Green Mountain Common) for the sake of livestock management between numerous permittees. Place no fences across wildlife migration routes.

Retire specific Section 15 grazing leases around Dubois (i.e., Wind River 40 acres, T42N, R107W, Sec. 30, NE1/4 NW1/4 and Wind River 80 acres at Stoney Point T42N, R108, Sec. 25, N1/2 NE1/4). 40 acre parcel was being used as a bull pasture, highly impacting the riparian area. 80 acre parcel is split by Hwy 287. South portion is on Wind River, north portion heavily grazed.

Remove grazing from Sweetwater Canyon WSA. Improvements from five years of rest from grazing are being reversed by current grazing decisions. The WSA values should provide justification for removing livestock from the canyon riparian area. Prior to five year rest from grazing the livestock management in the canyon was not meeting the mandate of FLPMA or the WSA IMP policy.

Provide alternative for removing grazing from scattered Lander Slope Section 15 leases for management of noxious weeds.

### **HISTORIC TRAILS/LANDSCAPES**

Remove selected areas from leasing and development (i.e., NHTS corridor, South Pass historic landscape). Make decision on preventing use of South Pass Historic Landscape as a right-of-way corridor. (i.e., no more threats from pipelines and transmission lines)

### **O&G**

Remove selected areas from leasing and development (i.e., NHTS corridor, South Pass historic landscape).

Continue current withdrawals and no leasing on Dubois Badlands WSA, East Fork elk winter range, and Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep range for protection of wilderness values and wildlife habitat.

### **WIND ENERGY**

The use of wind to generate electric power should be carefully addressed in the RMP. Sensitive scenic, historic, wildlife habitat, and other public land resources should be protected from development of wind energy projects. The RMP should withdraw specific areas from development of wind energy facilities.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Use forest management as a tool to improve wildlife habitat and forest health, not as a specific harvest quota (i.e., number of permits, cubic feet volume).