



Summary of the Alternatives

Alternative A (Current Management)

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, represents the current management approach established by the 1987 Lander Field Office RMP. Alternative A establishes allotment stocking rates to maximize utilization of forage in areas preferred by livestock, while achieving standards for healthy rangeland. Current management identifies constraints on mineral leasing in the planning area to protect resource values that are incompatible with mineral resources activity. Constraints on resource uses specifically to protect fish and wildlife resources are only used in a few cases under Alternative A.

- Oil and gas leasing is closed on less than 1 percent of federal mineral estate and subject to moderate and major constraints on 73 percent of federal mineral estate.
- Renewable energy projects are excluded on 9 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Livestock grazing is allowed on all but 69,276 acres, or less than 3 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Greater sage-grouse management prohibits surface-disturbing activity near leks on less than 1 percent of BLM surface estate, while activities are subject to seasonal limitations near nesting habitat on 33 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Nine Areas of Critical Environmental Concern encompass 119,621 acres, or 5 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails across the majority of the planning area.

Alternative B (Most Resource Conservation)

Alternative B emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, heritage and visual resources while managing the public lands for multiple use. Resource development and other active land uses would still be authorized, but greater restrictions would be placed on where and how they occur. Alternative B would use a low impact approach to resource management, utilizing natural systems to achieve goals and objectives – particularly towards achieving Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, proper functioning condition, and forest health – and allow the least amount of infrastructure and human presence as possible. In order to avoid potential lasting impacts from more intensive management, making improvements to resource condition may take longer to achieve than under a more development oriented approach.

- Oil and gas leasing is closed on 81 percent of federal mineral estate and subject to moderate and major constraints on 18 percent of federal mineral estate.
- Renewable energy projects are excluded on 97 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Livestock grazing is available on all but 82,115 acres, or 3.4 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Greater sage-grouse management prohibits surface-disturbing activity near leks on 4 percent of BLM surface estate, while activities are subject to seasonal limitations near nesting habitat on 56 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Fifteen Areas of Critical Environmental Concern encompass 1,492,990 acres, or 62 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails across the majority of the



Alternative C (Most Resource Utilization)

Alternative C emphasizes resource uses and reduces constraints on resource uses. The alternative has fewer protections of resources and focuses on a more intensive human presence on the land to achieve management goals. In Alternative C, if rangelands are not meeting Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, infrastructure including fences and water development projects are utilized along with livestock grazing management to improve conditions. Timber commodity availability is protected with full fire suppression. Extractive and other industrial uses are maximized, resulting in fewer protections of resources.

- Oil and gas leasing is closed on less than 1 percent of federal mineral estate and subject to moderate and major constraints on 71 percent of federal mineral estate.
- Renewable energy projects are excluded on 4 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Livestock grazing is allowed on all but 69,276 acres, or less than 3 percent of BLM surface estate.
- Greater sage-grouse management prohibits surface-disturbing activity near leks on less than 1 percent of BLM surface estate, while activities are subject to seasonal limitations near nesting habitat on 33 percent of BLM surface estate.
- No Areas of Critical Environmental Concern would be recognized under Alternative C.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails across the majority of the planning area.

Alternative D (Agency Preferred Alternative)

Alternative D represents the BLM's Preferred Alternative at this stage of the process. It applies a more balanced approach than alternatives B and C, and generally increases conservation of physical, biological, heritage and visual resources compared to current management. The use of range improvement projects is authorized pursuant only to a Comprehensive Grazing Strategy that would help to meet Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Alternative D designates the second largest land area as SRMAs and ACECs and emphasizes moderate constraints on resource uses (e.g., mineral development) to reduce adverse impacts to resource values.

Alternative D's management approach supports economic development, such as identifying priority areas for oil and gas development, and traditional land uses like mining and livestock grazing. Important resource values are protected by constraining resource uses in areas where conflicts exist such as by applying a Master Leasing Plan in the Beaver Rim area and limiting disturbance in greater sage-grouse Core Area. A variety of recreational opportunities, including OHV use, are provided across the planning area.

- Oil and gas leasing is closed on 4 percent of federal mineral estate and subject to moderate and major constraints on 94 percent of federal mineral estate.
 - 2,125 new oil and gas wells/pads are projected during the life of the plan.
 - Renewable energy projects are excluded on 41 percent of BLM surface estate.
 - Rights-of-way avoidance areas encompass 44 percent of BLM surface estate while exclusion areas encompass only 35 percent of BLM surface estate.
 - Livestock grazing is available on all but 75,589 acres, or 3 percent of BLM surface estate.
 - Greater sage-grouse management prohibits surface-disturbing activity near leks on 4 percent of BLM surface estate, while activities are subject to seasonal limitations near nesting habitat on 73 percent of BLM surface estate.
 - Eight Areas of Critical Environmental Concern encompass 245,037 acres, or 10 percent of BLM surface estate.
 - Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails across the majority of the planning area.
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