

Evaluation of Relevance and Importance Criteria for Existing and Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

**Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
Pinedale, Wyoming**

Prepared by

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office**

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Areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) are areas of Bureau of Land Management (BLM)–administered lands where special management attention is needed to protect important and relevant values. “Special management attention” refers to management prescriptions developed during preparation of a resource management plan (RMP) or amendment expressly to protect the important and relevant values of an area from the potential effects of actions permitted by the RMP, including proposed actions deemed to be in conformance with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the RMP (BLM Manual 1613). These are management measures that would not be necessary or prescribed if the critical and important features were not present.

To be designated as an ACEC, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance (as defined in BLM Manual 1613). Areas meeting the relevance criterion possess significant historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish or wildlife resources, including threatened and endangered species; or natural hazards. To meet the importance criterion, the area must contain resources that have substantial significance and value. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern (especially in comparison with any similar resource) or qualities or circumstances that make the resource fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.

There are currently two ACECs within the planning area: Rock Creek ACEC and Beaver Creek ACEC. In addition, public comment received during the scoping period suggested that a number of areas be considered for designation as ACECs, and some areas were proposed as potential ACECs by BLM staff or cooperating agencies. Other areas within the planning area that were identified as potential ACECs include the following: New Fork Potholes, Trappers Point, white-tailed prairie dog areas, Upper Green River, CCC Ponds, Ross Butte, Beaver Creek ACEC expansion, Rock Creek ACEC expansion, North Cottonwood Creek, South Cottonwood Creek, LaBarge Elk Winter Range, Mesa area, Miller Mountain, Muddy Creek, Wind River Front area, and Wyoming Range Front area.

BLM was required to determine whether existing ACECs and areas proposed for ACEC designation met the relevance and importance criteria before their inclusion in the detailed analysis component of the environmental impact statement (EIS). This report presents the completed evaluation forms for all existing and proposed ACECs in the RMPPA (Tables 1 through 18). Areas that did not meet the relevance and importance criteria were dropped from further consideration for ACEC designation. Areas that met the relevance and importance criteria were included in the management alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS.

Table 1. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Rock Creek ACEC (Existing)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Rock Creek	
General Location	T27N, R114/115W	
General Description	The Rock Creek watershed, a tributary of LaBarge Creek; overlies a portion of the Lake Mountain Wilderness Study Area	
Acreage	5,190	
Values Considered	Scenic values, fisheries, crucial elk winter range	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	High scenic value with deep canyon geology, rock slides, and curl-leaf mountain mahogany, riparian, and timber vegetation.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides habitat for a genetically pure core population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. This population has been used as brood stock by the WGFD. The area also provides crucial winter range for an elk population that winters on native range.
A natural process or system (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	The Colorado River cutthroat trout is a Wyoming sensitive species but is not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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	The Colorado River cutthroat trout population in this area is a genetically pure, core population that has been used as brood stock for reintroduction of Colorado River cutthroat trout into other suitable habitats.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	This Colorado River cutthroat trout population is irreplaceable. To avoid listing under the ESA, all genetically pure populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout should be preserved. Elimination of individual populations such as this one narrows the gene pool of the species and reduces its chances for survival.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 2. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Beaver Creek ACEC (Existing)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Beaver Creek	
General Location	T29N, R115W	
General Description	Beaver Creek watershed, containing about 14 miles of streams	
Acreage	3,548	
Values Considered	Colorado River cutthroat trout habitat; elk parturition range	
Identification Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet relevance and importance criteria, 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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	No especially significant historic or cultural resources are found in the area. Scenic values are high but similar to those of other areas in the Pinedale Field Office area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The area provides aquatic habitat for one of two genetically pure populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the Pinedale Field Office area. The other population is protected in the Rock Creek ACEC and Lake Mountain WSA. The Beaver Creek watershed also provides important parturition habitat for elk.

<p>A natural process or system (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>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Colorado River cutthroat trout is a Wyoming sensitive species, but is not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).</p>																		
<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No known natural hazards are present.</p>																		
<p>Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>																				
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<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Riparian systems are vulnerable to disturbance by nature; however, Beaver Creek is no more vulnerable than other similar systems.</p>																		
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<p>Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No safety or public welfare risks are known.</p>																		
<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No threats to life, safety, or property are known.</p>																		

Table 3. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—New Fork Potholes (Proposed)

<p>ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process</p>	
<p>Area Considered</p>	<p>New Fork Potholes</p>
<p>General Location</p>	<p>T36N, R110W</p>
<p>General Description</p>	<p>Glacially formed pothole habitat area in the upper Green River area</p>
<p>Acres</p>	<p>1,012</p>
<p>Values Considered</p>	<p>Unique pothole geology and riparian habitat</p>

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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	The potholes provide unique scenic values not commonly found in other parts of Wyoming or the West.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides unique riparian habitat for many species, including trumpeter swans, other waterfowl, big game, and fish.
A natural process or system (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	The unique geology of the potholes is not commonly found elsewhere. The potholes were glacially formed and appear in various stages of development, including large deep ponds, shallow ponds, and depressions that support riparian vegetation but do not generally hold standing water.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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	The potholes are a distinctive feature not commonly found on other areas.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The pothole habitat is rare in Wyoming. Activities that puncture underlying geologic layers could allow the water to drain from the ponds.

Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 4. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Trapper’s Point (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Trapper's Point	
General Location	T34N, R110W	
General Description	A natural migration bottleneck located at the north end of the Mesa	
Acres	3,988	
Values Considered	Big game migration, traditional ranching use, cultural values	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Contains a high concentration of cultural sites. Research indicates that big game migration and Native American use of this site has been occurring for at least 6,000 years. The site is also used as the gathering point for the Drift, where local ranchers trail about 7,000 cattle per year to and from summer allotments on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Constitutes a natural bottleneck (narrowing) in the migration route between summer and crucial winter ranges for approximately 10,000 mule deer and pronghorn.
A natural process or system (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	The big game migrations that pass through the Mesa area twice a year are some of the largest anywhere in the world. As many as 100,000 big game animals pass through this area during twice-annual migrations.

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Cultural and historic resources are present in the area. Only a few are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These are located in specific, discrete locations and do not characterize the entire area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The area provides habitat for the White-tailed prairie dog, a species that has been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
A natural process or system (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	Any rare plants or plant communities have been addressed in the more specific locations in which they occur.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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	The white-tailed prairie dog has been eliminated from as much as 90% of its former range. All remaining habitat areas are significant for preservation of the species.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming and the West.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.

Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.
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Table 6. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Upper Green River (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Green River migration crossing	
General Location	T36N, R111W	
General Description	Natural migration crossing the Green River north of Warren Bridge	
Acres	8,900	
Values Considered	Big game migration	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	The area provides important scenic and recreational values.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	This river crossing is an essential point on the migration route between winter ranges of mule deer and pronghorn on the Mesa and in southern Sublette County, in the summer ranges in the Wind River and Wyoming Range mountains, and as far north as Grand Teton National Park.
A natural process or system (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	The big game migrations passing through the Pinedale area twice a year, and through this river crossing specifically, are some of the largest and longest in the United States.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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	The big game migrations passing through the Pinedale area twice a year, and through this bottleneck point specifically, are some of the largest and longest in the United States.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	Yes	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 7. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—CCC Ponds (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	CCC Ponds	
General Location	T34, R109; T34, R108; T35, R109	
General Description	Natural migration bottleneck located at the south end of Fremont Lake	
Acreage	5,460	
Values Considered	Big game migration	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	No significant historic or cultural resources are known.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	This bottleneck is an essential point on the migration route of mule deer between summer range in the Wind River and Wyoming Range mountains and winter habitat in the Big Sandy area.

<p>A natural process or system (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>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The big game migrations passing through the Pinedale area twice a year, and through this bottleneck point specifically, are some of the largest and longest in the United States.</p>																		
<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No natural hazards are known.</p>																		
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<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>This migration bottleneck is threatened by private land development and increasing recreational use.</p>																		
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Table 8. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Ross Butte (Proposed)

<p>ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process</p>	
<p>Area Considered</p>	<p>Ross Butte</p>
<p>General Location</p>	<p>Desert areas roughly between the Jonah gas field and Big Piney, Wyoming</p>
<p>General Description</p>	<p>Includes the Ross Butte and Milleson Draw areas</p>
<p>Acres</p>	<p>31,822</p>
<p>Values Considered</p>	<p>Sensitive soils, sensitive plant communities, scenic values</p>

Identification Criteria		
<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>Relevance— An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:</p>		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<p>A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).</p>	Yes	<p>The area consists of broken, badland-type areas, many unroaded areas, and vegetation unique in the Wyoming desert (including trees). Important cultural resources, some of religious concern, are also present in the Ross Butte area.</p>
<p>A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).</p>	Yes	<p>The area contains a unique community assemblage of several threatened and Wyoming sensitive species, including opal phlox, large-fruited bladderpod, Beaver Rim phlox, Trelease's milkvetch, and Cedar Rim thistle. Much of the area also provides suitable habitat for mountain plover.</p>
<p>A natural process or system (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>The threatened and sensitive plants occur together in a unique, rare cushion plant community not commonly found in other areas.</p>
<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.</p>	No	<p>No natural hazards are known.</p>
<p>Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
<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>	No	<p>Similar sites and values can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.</p>
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	Yes	<p>The rare plants found on these sites are very susceptible to surface disturbance and difficult or impossible to reclaim or revegetate.</p>

Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 9. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Beaver Creek ACEC Expansion (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Beaver Creek Expansion	
General Location	T29N, R115W	
General Description	Additional areas in the South Beaver, North Beaver, and Trail Ridge watersheds	
Acreage	Approximately 3,500	
Values Considered	Colorado River cutthroat trout 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:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	No significant historic or cultural values are known. Scenic values are high, but similar to those of many other areas in the Pinedale Field Office.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	The area provides aquatic habitat for one of two genetically pure populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the Pinedale Field Office area. The other population is protected in the Rock Creek ACEC and the Lake Mountain WSA.
A natural process or system (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	No threatened, endangered, or otherwise rare plants are known.

<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No natural hazards are known.</p>
<p>Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Importance Value Yes/No Rationale for Determination</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>Similar sites and values can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.</p>
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites 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>No national priority concerns are known.</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>No safety or public welfare concerns are known.</p>
<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No significant threats.</p>

Table 10. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Rock Creek ACEC Expansion (Proposed)

<p style="text-align: center;">ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process</p>	
<p>Area Considered</p>	<p>Rock Creek Expansion</p>
<p>General Location</p>	<p>T27N, R115W</p>
<p>General Description</p>	<p>Includes Rock Creek and the LaBarge Creek watershed upstream from the Rock Creek confluence</p>
<p>Acreage</p>	<p>Approximately 10,000</p>
<p>Values Considered</p>	<p>Fisheries</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Identification Criteria</p>	
<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>Relevance— An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:</p>	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	No significant historic or cultural resources are known. The scenery is similar to that of many other stream systems in the Pinedale Field Office.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides habitat for a population of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
A natural process or system (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	No threatened, endangered, or otherwise rare plants are known.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Similar sites and values can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.

Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.
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Table 11. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—North Cottonwood Creek (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	North Cottonwood Creek	
General Location	T33N, R114W, near the USFS boundary	
General Description	BLM-administered portion of North Cottonwood Creek	
Acresage	Approximately 500	
Values Considered	Fisheries (Colorado River cutthroat trout) and other wildlife 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:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	No significant historic or cultural resources are known. The scenery is similar to that of many other stream systems in the Pinedale Field Office.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides habitat for a population of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
A natural process or system (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	No threatened, endangered, or otherwise rare plants are known.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Similar sites and values can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 12. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—South Cottonwood Creek (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	South Cottonwood Creek	
General Location	T32N, R114W, near the USFS boundary	
General Description	BLM-administered portion of South Cottonwood Creek	
Acreage	Approximately 500	
Values Considered	Fisheries (Colorado River cutthroat trout) and other wildlife 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:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	No significant historic or cultural resources are known. The scenery is similar to that of many other stream systems in the Pinedale Field Office.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides habitat for a population of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

A natural process or system (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	No threatened, endangered, or otherwise rare plants are known.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Similar sites and values can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 13. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—LaBarge Elk Winter Range (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process	
Area Considered	LaBarge Elk Winter Range
General Location	Natural elk winter ranges from South Piney to Fontenelle Creek; T25-26N, R113-114-115W
General Description	BLM-administered public lands and mineral estate containing elk winter range and located north of Fontenelle Creek and south of LaBarge Creek

Acreege	Approximately 30,000	
Values Considered	Native elk winter range, scenic values, wildlife habitat, recreational values, sage grouse habitat and open space	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	The area contains many National Register eligible historic and prehistoric sites, and Native American sacred sites. These values are similar to those in the remainder of the planning area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	This area supports elk not dependent on feedgrounds for winter survival. This is the only elk herd in the planning area that does not depend on a feedground for winter survival. The area is within the Wyoming Range, one of the most productive snowshoe hare habitats in Wyoming and contains lynx analysis units (LAU). Beaver Creek and Rock Creek contain genetically pure populations of sensitive Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT). Other streams in this area are likely to contain CRCT populations.
A natural process or system (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	One of the few areas in the planning area containing Cretaceous limestone outcroppings with paleontological resource potential.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Similar types of wildlife habitat are found throughout Wyoming and the West.

Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 14. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—The Mesa (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	The Mesa	
General Location	T31-32-33N, R109-110W	
General Description	The Mesa, a large, flat-topped butte immediately south and west of Pinedale	
Acreage	342,177	
Values Considered	Crucial big game winter range, sage grouse habitat, big game migration routes	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	There are a number of cultural resources in the area, with a few eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; however, these are found in small, discrete areas and are not representative of the Mesa area as a whole.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	This area provides crucial winter range for a large population of mule deer and is on the migration route to crucial winter ranges further south for pronghorn. It also provides lekking, nesting, and brood rearing habitat for sage grouse, which has been petitioned for listing as an endangered species. Western Wyoming contains the largest remaining populations and most intact habitat for sage grouse in the West.
A natural process or system (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	The big game migrations that pass through the Mesa area twice a year are some of the largest anywhere in the world.

<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No natural hazards are known.</p>
<p>Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Importance Value Yes/No Rationale for Determination</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>Similar types of wildlife habitat are found throughout Wyoming and the West.</p>
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming and the West.</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>No national priority concerns are known.</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>No safety or public welfare concerns are known.</p>
<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No significant threats.</p>

Table 15. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Miller Mountain (Proposed)

<p style="text-align: center;">ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process</p>	
<p>Area Considered</p>	<p>Miller Mountain</p>
<p>General Location</p>	<p>T25-26-27N, R115W</p>
<p>General Description</p>	<p>Miller Mountain area; western portion of the South LaBarge allotment</p>
<p>Acreage</p>	<p>53,150</p>
<p>Values Considered</p>	<p>Crucial elk winter range, rare plants, unstable soils</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Identification Criteria</p>	
<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>Relevance— An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:</p>	

Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	No significant historic or cultural values are known. Scenic quality is high but similar to that of other portions of the Pinedale Field Office and Wyoming.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides potential habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout. Provides crucial elk winter range for one of only two populations of elk in the Pinedale Field Office area that winter on native range.
A natural process or system (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	No threatened, endangered, or otherwise rare plants are known.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	Yes	Contains steep slopes and unstable soils prone to landslides.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Similar habitats and characteristics can be found in many areas of Wyoming and the West.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.

Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats. No recreation or other facilities are located in areas prone to landslides.
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Table 16. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Muddy Creek (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Muddy Creek	
General Location	T32N, R112W	
General Description	Muddy Creek watershed in the Bench Corral area	
Acreage	Approximately 20,000	
Values Considered	Visual values, potential paleontology values, crucial elk winter range, unique riparian habitat, archeological values	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	There is a high density of archeological sites but the area is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Similar sites can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	The area provides crucial elk winter range to one of only two populations of elk in the Pinedale Field Office area that winter on native range. However, the elk in this area also have access to the Bench Corral elk feedground and are not dependent on this winter range.
A natural process or system (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	No threatened, endangered, or otherwise rare plants are known. The riparian area has unique characteristics, with a number of springs contributing to a large marshy area. However, this type of site can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Similar sites and values can be found in other areas of Wyoming and the West.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 17. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Wind River Front (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Wind River Front	
General Location	BLM-administered public lands within approximately 8 miles of the USFS boundary along the northeast side of the Pinedale Field Office area	
General Description	BLM-administered public lands and mineral estate located along the Wind River Front, stretching from the southern Pinedale Field Office boundary near Big Sandy to the Upper Green River area	
Acreege	Approximately 140,000	
Values Considered	Scenic values, wildlife habitat, recreational values, big game migration, sage grouse habitat, open space, integrity of the USAF Seismic Monitoring Detachment	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Many sites pertaining to the history of the settlement of the West are found in this area. Scenic value is very high with the Wind River Mountains and the USFS wilderness area as a backdrop.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides winter and transitional ranges, migration routes, and contains migration bottlenecks for mule deer, pronghorn, elk, and moose. Provides lekking, nesting, and brood rearing habitat for the greater sage-grouse, which has been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

<p>A natural process or system (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>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The big game migrations that pass through this area twice annually are some of the largest anywhere in the world. A discrete mule deer migration route follows the base of the Wind River Mountains from the upper Green River area to crucial winter range in the Big Sandy area of the Rock Springs Field Office.</p>																		
<p>Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No natural hazards are known.</p>																		
<p>Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>																				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="175 869 586 905">Importance Value</th> <th data-bbox="586 869 719 905">Yes/No</th> <th data-bbox="719 869 1443 905">Rationale for Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="175 905 586 1087"> <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> </td> <td data-bbox="586 905 719 1087"> <p>No</p> </td> <td data-bbox="719 905 1443 1087"> <p>Similar types of wildlife habitat are found throughout Wyoming and the West.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="175 1087 586 1243"> <p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="586 1087 719 1243"> <p>No</p> </td> <td data-bbox="719 1087 1443 1243"> <p>The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="175 1243 586 1369"> <p>Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="586 1243 719 1369"> <p>No</p> </td> <td data-bbox="719 1243 1443 1369"> <p>No national priority concerns are known.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="175 1369 586 1495"> <p>Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="586 1369 719 1495"> <p>No</p> </td> <td data-bbox="719 1369 1443 1495"> <p>No safety or public welfare concerns are known.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="175 1495 586 1566"> <p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="586 1495 719 1566"> <p>No</p> </td> <td data-bbox="719 1495 1443 1566"> <p>No significant threats.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination	<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>Similar types of wildlife habitat are found throughout Wyoming and the West.</p>	<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites 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>No national priority concerns are known.</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>No safety or public welfare concerns are known.</p>	<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No significant threats.</p>
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination																		
<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>Similar types of wildlife habitat are found throughout Wyoming and the West.</p>																		
<p>Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites 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>No national priority concerns are known.</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>No safety or public welfare concerns are known.</p>																		
<p>Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No significant threats.</p>																		

Table 18. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Wyoming Range Front (Proposed)

<p>ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process</p>	
<p>Area Considered</p>	<p>Wyoming Range Front</p>
<p>General Location</p>	<p>BLM-administered public lands within approximately 12 miles of the USFS boundary along the west side of the Pinedale Field Office area</p>
<p>General Description</p>	<p>BLM-administered public lands lying east of the Wyoming Range and roughly west of US Highway 189</p>
<p>Acreage</p>	<p>Approximately 700,000</p>

Values Considered	Transitional and crucial winter big game ranges, native fisheries, sage grouse habitats	
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Cultural and historic resources are present in the area. Only a few are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These are located in specific, discrete locations and do not characterize the entire area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides transitional and crucial winter habitat for mule deer, pronghorn, and elk. Streams in the area provide habitat for Colorado River cutthroat trout. Provides lekking, nesting, brood rearing, and winter habitat for the greater sage-grouse, which has been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
A natural process or system (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	Any rare plants or plant communities, or other natural processes and systems, have been addressed in the more specific locations where they occur.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	No natural hazards are known.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Similar types of wildlife habitat are found throughout Wyoming and the West; however, this area provides more intact habitat than is found in many areas.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	The area is not particularly fragile or sensitive to change as compared to other sites in Wyoming.

Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	No national priority concerns are known.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	No	No safety or public welfare concerns are known.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	No significant threats.

Table 19. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Critical Watersheds and Recharge Areas for the Towns of Big Piney, Marbleton, and LaBarge (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Critical watersheds and recharge areas for the towns of Big Piney, Marbleton, and LaBarge.	
General Location		
General Description		
Acreage		
Values Considered		
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	
A natural process or system (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	Groundwater recharge is important in maintaining aquifers and water availability for municipal and other uses.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource	No	

management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.		
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criterion. 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.	No	
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	Watersheds and groundwater resources are protected in the RMP with surface management restrictions and development requirements including use of surface casing, handling of hazardous materials, and other restrictions.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	

Table 20. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—5 Miles Either Side of the Green River (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	5 miles either side of the Green River	
General Location		
General Description		
Acreage		
Values Considered		
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Both the Lander Road and the Sublette Cutoff cross the Green River and could be contained within this area, as well as many other cultural resources. Several sites considered sacred to Native Americans exist on bluffs overlooking the river. Native American trails are concentrated along the river.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat	Yes	Big game migration corridors cross the river in several places. Bald eagles and other raptor species use the river as foraging and

for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).		nesting habitat. The river is of regional significance for recreational fishing.
A natural process or system (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	Paleontological resources are common in some areas.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	
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	

Table 21. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Boulder Lake (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process	
Area Considered	Boulder Lake area
General Location	

General Description		
Acreage		
Values Considered		
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	The area contains a remarkable concentration of archeological deposits going back 11,000 years; Native American trails; and is considered sensitive by native American tribal people. Refer to the Cultural Resources Management Plan for a full discussion. The area is very scenic with undisturbed finger lakes and a high mountain backdrop provided by the Wind River Range.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Provides transitional range and a major migration route for mule deer. Contains sage-grouse leks. Raptors use the lake for foraging and nesting sites are available around the lake.
A natural process or system (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	This area is a good example of the Pinedale phase of the late Wisconsinian glacial age. Contains lateral and terminal moraines, large boulders, and small potholes.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	No	
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Values in the Boulder Lake area are being addressed with a Cultural Resource Management Plan and designation as a Special Recreation Management Area.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or	No	

vulnerable to adverse change.		
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	

Table 22. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Sage-Grouse Winter Concentration Areas (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas.	
General Location		
General Description		
Acreage		
Values Considered		
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	Without final information on the location of the areas, it is not possible to determine presence of cultural resources.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	Yes	Winter concentration areas are an important link in sage-grouse habitats for year-round survival. Some scientists feel that winter habitats might be a limiting factor in sage-grouse populations.
A natural process or system (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	
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is	No	

determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.		
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	Protections for sage-grouse winter concentration areas are provided in management actions, including seasonal restrictions and limits on surface disturbance in these areas.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	No	Protections for sage-grouse winter concentration areas are provided in management actions, including seasonal restrictions and limits on surface disturbance in these areas.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	No	Protections for sage-grouse winter concentration areas are provided in management actions, including seasonal restrictions and limits on surface disturbance in these areas.
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	

Table 23. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Soap Holes (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process		
Area Considered	Soap Holes Basin	
General Location		
General Description		
Acreage		
Values Considered		
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	Yes	Presence of water promotes high density of archeological materials, including a significant concentration of Native American sacred sites. One Traditional Cultural Property is identified for the area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or	Yes	The area contains sage-grouse leks. Natural ponds provide habitat for trumpeter swans.

threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).		
A natural process or system (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	
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	Yes	A rare combination of hydrology, soils and geomorphology leads to an area with sinkholes and quicksand-type areas which are hazardous to people and animals.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the "importance" criterion. 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.	No	
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	The area will be managed through OHV restrictions in subsequent travel management planning to limit public access to designated roads. Some areas could be seasonally closed due to poor road conditions and public hazard.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	No	The area will be managed through OHV restrictions in subsequent travel management planning to limit public access to designated roads. Some areas could be seasonally closed due to poor road conditions and public hazard.

Table 24. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Tip Top Watershed (Proposed)

ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form –Pinedale Field Office – RMP Process	
Area Considered	Tip Top watershed

General Location		
General Description		
Acreage		
Values Considered		
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
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	No	
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	No	
A natural process or system (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	One of the few areas in the planning area containing Cretaceous limestone outcroppings with paleontological resource potential.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criterion if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	Yes	Steep slopes and soils of the Wasatch formation make the area susceptible to slumping and landslides.
Importance— The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criterion. 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.	No	
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or	No	

vulnerable to adverse change.		
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	