

## **APPENDIX M**

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS AND VEGETATION MANIPULATIONS**

These operating procedures provide standard guidance for all range improvements and vegetation manipulations.

Consultation with the affected interest groups and an approved environmental analysis would be required for all range improvements before any project is constructed.

Roads or trails to new construction or project sites would be constructed only if access does not exist.

Proposed range improvements, resulting in surface disturbance, would be inventoried for archeological features. All archeological sites identified would be avoided or mitigated.

If undiscovered cultural remains are encountered during construction, the operator would temporarily discontinue activities until BLM evaluates the discovery and determines the appropriate action.

Proposed range improvements resulting in surface disturbance would be subject to the guidelines established in Appendix A-1.

No action would be taken by BLM that could jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species.

BLM would also comply with any state laws applying to animal or plant species identified by the state as being threatened or endangered (in addition to the federally listed species).

Wildlife escape devices would be installed and maintained in all water troughs.

An analysis of cost effectiveness would be completed on an allotment basis prior to the installation of any management facilities or land treatments funded by the BLM.

All areas where vegetation manipulation occurs would be totally rested from livestock grazing for a period necessary to allow for the recovery and reestablishment of key forage species.

Chemical treatment would consist of applying approved chemicals to control noxious or poisonous plants. Before chemicals are applied, the BLM would comply with Department of Interior regulations. All chemical applications would be preceded by an approved pesticide use proposal and an environmental

assessment. All applications would be carried out in compliance with the pesticide laws for Wyoming.

All land treatment projects on crucial wildlife ranges will be limited in size, where necessary, by the cover and(or) forage requirements of wildlife. Proper mitigation measures would be incorporated.

All burning projects will have a burn plan, environmental assessment, and a burn permit from the State of Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality prior to initiation. (Appendix C-4 - Standard Operating Procedures for Range Improvements and Vegetation Manipulations)

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