

APPENDIX W

PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cultural

Cultural resources actions taken to implement the management decisions in the RMP are as follows:

- Prepared a synthesis of cultural resource site 48SU350.
- Completed nomination of the Overlook Rock Shelter for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Developed a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Boulder Lake area, which is being affected by shoreline action, severe unauthorized artifact collection, and vandalism. It is a desired future condition to manage the area for the preservation of cultural and historical values, including periodic patrolling by law enforcement personnel to prevent artifact collection and site vandalism.
- Initiated compliance-related efforts in the Jonah and Pinedale Anticline/LaBarge oil and gas fields under the National PA/Wyoming Protocol. The BLM is working with industry officials to develop a program in which the industry will sponsor data recovery excavations at one site for each well it develops in the area.
- Cooperated with two museums in Sublette County, including assisting both museums with developing interpretive displays.
- Executed a loan agreement for the Wardell Buffalo artifact with the Green River Valley Museum and with the University of Wyoming for artifact loans.
- SHPO, through categorically accepting PFO's National Register eligibility and project effect determinations for all routine No Effect and conditional No Adverse Effect cases, allows BLM to streamline the cultural resources permitting process, resulting in streamlining 95 percent of the cultural resources cases handled by the PFO.

The Cultural Heritage Strategic plan was developed by BLM and SHPO. The following potential future actions are proposed for future consideration in the PFO in order to implement the plan:

- Identify and evaluate the Rock Springs New Fork Wagon Road
- Improve the Lander Trail management
- Develop a program within the 48SU400 Archeological District in which industry can develop an ongoing artifact curation program
- Prepare a bioarchaeological assessment of Ruby Butte

- Improve public education processes
- Stabilize the Wardell Buffalo Trap site
- Protect the Holden Hill Site
- Preserve prehistoric rock art inscriptions
- Prevent artifact pilfering on the Jonah and Pinedale Anticline Fields
- Conduct annual meetings with key Native American tribes
- Pursue stronger working relationships with the public
- Implement the Boulder Lake Cultural Resource Management Plan
- Nominate a significant cultural resource sites to the National Register of Historic Places as they are identified and evaluated.

The Oregon/Mormon/California Trail, designated by Congress as part of the National Historic Trail system in 1978, is partially administered by the BLM PFO. The National Park Service retains oversight and overall trail coordination among BLM, the Forest Service, State and local government units, citizen organizations, and numerous private individuals whose property the trail crosses. Consistent with the Oregon/California Trail Management Plan, the Lander Trail was marked in its entirety, and a new interpretive site at New Fork River Crossing was completed.

Fire

Since the 1988 Approved RMP, the “desired burned acreages” and wildfire containment to a specific number of acres in each of the 11 FMP areas were not consistently met. However, during the period since 1988 a total of 8,700 acres of prescribed burning has been accomplished (see table 3.7-1, Vegetation Manipulation since 1988) and additional planning has been completed.

Forestry

Timber harvesting has been well below the harvesting goals established by the Pinedale RMP. In recent years, forest management has focused less on timber harvesting and more on forest management for habitat enhancement, forest health, and fire management.

Since 1988, 6 million board feet (MMBF) were harvested over roughly 570 acres in the planning area. In the Deadline-Pinegrove management unit, 292 acres were harvested for a volume of 2.4 MMBF. The Miller Mountain management unit harvested an estimated 278 acres with a volume of 1.2 MMBF.

During this same period, 134 acres were precommercially thinned in the PFO. The Deadline-Pine Grove management unit had an estimated 123 acres thinned, and the Miller Mountain management unit, 11 acres precommercially thinned.

Lands and Realty

Consistent with the Pinedale RMP, withdrawals have been lifted on two livestock driveways that were no longer needed to serve their designated purpose. Some acreage remains withdrawn and continues to be used for livestock movement, and these areas will continue to be segregated from all forms of disposal under the public land laws.

Specific accomplishments include:

- Approximately 3300 rights-of-way have been granted. The majority of these rights-of-way are for energy related facilities.
- Approximately 85 acres have been patented to four different private land owners through FLPMA sales.
- Approximately 115 acres have been patented to Sublette County for the Shooting Complex through Recreation & Public Purposes Act Patent (R&PP).
- Approximately 500 acres have been patented to the Town of Big Piney for the Big Piney Airport.
- Approximately 240 acres have been patented to Sublette County for the Marbleton Landfill and 10 acres for Pinedale Transfer Station. An additional 30 acres for the Pinedale Transfer Station is leased to Sublette County through the R&PP Act.
- One exchange was completed in which the BLM acquired 20 acres and disposed 40 acres.
- BLM acquired three easements from the State of Wyoming (Trail Ridge, Chimney Road and Moose).

Livestock Grazing

Since the adoption of the 1988 Approved Pinedale RMP, two new Allotment Management Plans (AMP) have been completed. Since 1988 two of the existing AMPs were revised an/or rewritten.

Since implementation of the Standards for Rangeland Health in 1997, the PFO has completed the assessment of those standards in 87 allotments which contain 659,043 acres. Map 3.7-1 identifies the results of those assessments. Other accomplishment since the RMP was signed in 1988 include:

- Monitoring data was collected on 120 grazing allotments.
- The season of use has been changed on 25 grazing allotments.

- PFO has authorized 75 range improvement projects related to the management of livestock grazing. Of these, 43 were water developments, 17 were fences, and 15 were vegetation manipulation projects.
- There have been conversions in the class of livestock in 8 allotments.
- AUM reductions have been made on 12 allotments.

Minerals Development

In 1988 mineral development in the PFO primarily consisted of oil and gas exploration and development in the Big Piney-LaBarge area, moss rock extraction from the Miller Mountain/Miller Creek/LaBarge Creek area, and gravel sales from numerous pits scattered around the planning area. Since 1988, the oil and gas exploration and development has spread east and north to the Jonah and Pinedale Anticline areas, moss rock extraction continues in the Miller Mountain/Miller Creek/LaBarge Creek area, gravel sales continue from a variety of pits, and boulder extraction for rip rap and landscaping has commenced along the Wind River Front.

Oil and gas leases are issued through the BLM-Wyoming State Office at sales held every 2 months. Between 1996 and 2001, leases were offered on 287,230 acres. Within the Pinedale RMPPA 1,189 oil and gas leases were offered as of April 2002 covering 1,203,186 subsurface acres. Overall, about 77 percent of the BLM-managed subsurface acreage in the Pinedale RMPPA is leased.

Since 1988, approximately 1350 producing oil and/or gas wells have been developed in the RMPPA. During this same period approximately 93 wells have been plugged and abandoned.

The Deadline Ridge-Graphite Hollow wildlife/leasing study and activity plan has not been completed. The study has been incorporated into a more comprehensive elk study for the Wyoming Mountain Range.

Geophysical Exploration

Since 1988, forty geophysical projects have been conducted over approximately 80 percent of the RMPPA.

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

In the RMPPA, site-specific activity plans and environmental analyses for the Mount Airy and Big Piney "open OHV" use areas have not been developed. Monitoring of the Desert General Use Area for unacceptable impacts from OHV use, and monitoring of high-density road areas for OHV use has not been implemented to date.

Recently, the State of Wyoming and BLM entered into an agreement to authorize the BLM to participate in the Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Registration Program. The implementation of this program will occur during the next few years.

Recreation

The State of Wyoming's Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail System was authorized on public lands within the Pinedale planning area.

The South Boulder Lake boat access facilities were planned and developed through a cooperative effort by BLM, WYG&FD, and Trout Unlimited.

Consistent with the 1988 Approved Pinedale RMP, visitor use facilities were improved at the Scab Creek Campground and Trailhead.

A fishery habitat improvement project was completed on the Green River within the special Recreation Management Area as prescribed in the Upper Green River Habitat Management Plan (WY-046-WHA-02/July 1993).

Interpretive signage was installed on the Lander Trail above the New Fork River. The interpretive message depicts the emigrant experience of crossing the New Fork River. The BLM has granted a right-of-way (ROW) to the WG&FD to develop a new boat access site on the Green River known as the Huston Access. No new facilities or enhancements designed for the protection of visitors or natural resources have been implemented on public lands along the New Fork River.

No new facilities or enhancements designed for the protection of visitors or natural resources have been implemented on public lands in the planning area. No new campgrounds have been established. Upgrade improvements were made to the Warren Bridge Campground.

The BLM ceased to administer the issuance of permits for Bear Baiting on public lands, and it is now administered by WGFD.

Soils and Watershed

The standards assessments that consider soil and watershed conditions have been completed on 659,043 acres. Other efforts include reclamation of disturbed areas where an estimated 1500 acres have been reclaimed.

Level II groundwater studies of the Riley Ridge/La Barge area and the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Production area were completed.

Vegetation

Refer to table 3.7-1 for the vegetation manipulation projects that have been completed since 1988.

Noxious Weeds

The PFO inventoried approximately 40,000 acres for noxious weed occurrence in the Jonah Gas Field in 2001. BLM cooperates with Sublette County Weed and Pest to control weeds on public land each year. Since 1988 we estimate that approximately 840 acres of public land have been treated.

Visual Resource Management

A program has been initiated to improve the visual quality of oil development facilities in the planning area by working with companies to use various concepts for reducing the visual effect of existing facilities. To date, field office wide, this has been largely limited to painting on-site facilities Carlsbad tan in color.

Water Quality and Watershed

Level II groundwater studies of the Riley Ridge/La Barge area and the Pinedale Anticline Production area were completed.

Proper functioning condition assessments have been completed on streams within the PFO administrative area (see Table 3.15-2).

Wild Horses

All wild horses have been removed from the PFO administrative area, consistent with the 1988 RMP.

Wildlife and Fisheries

A fisheries habitat improvement project was completed on the Green River within the Special Recreation Management Area as prescribed in the Upper Green River Habitat Management Plan (WY-046-WHA-02/July 1993).

The Big Piney-LaBarge CAP mandates special mitigation measures for protecting wildlife resources. The affected area is composed of a large number of crucial mule deer winter range; grouse habitat; and critical elk winter ranges. Deer and antelope crucial winter range use restrictions are applied from November 15 to April 30 and sage grouse leks and nesting habitat from March 1 through May 15 and April 1 through July 31, respectively), subject to environmental analysis of proposed development activity.

Special Management Areas

Wilderness

The PFO has been and is currently monitoring the WSAs for activities that conflict with the wilderness values.