



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:
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June 24, 2005

Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2005-052
Expires: 9/30/06

To: Field Manager, Lander, and Deputy State Director, (920)
From: Associate State Director
Subject: Resource Management Plan (RMP) Maintenance Action: Incorporation of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) for the Desert Yellowhead (*Yermo xanthocephalus*) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Biological Opinion (BO) into the Lander Field Office RMP

The attached document transmits the revised FWS Biological Opinion (dated June 7, 2005) based on a review of potential activities and conservation measures described under the Wyoming BLM's Lander RMP and the statewide Programmatic Desert Yellowhead Biological Assessment (BA) in Wyoming, and their potential effects on the plant and its designated critical habitat in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq. & 50 CFR §402.10). The FWS concurred with the Bureau's "No Effect or Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determinations presented in the June 2004 Desert Yellowhead Statewide Programmatic BA. Impacts to the plant and its designated habitat from two activities, Livestock Grazing (including Wild Horses) and Off-Road-Vehicles (ORV), were not able to be effectively minimized through conservation measures. Since the completion of the BA in 2004, roads into the designated critical habitat have been closed, effectively removing impacts from ORVs. The attached BO addresses only Livestock Grazing (including Wild Horses). The Wyoming BLM Statewide Programmatic BA for the Desert Yellowhead can be found on the internet at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Wildlife.html>.

The preliminary determination is that this action is an RMP *Maintenance Action* as defined in 43 CFR 1610.5-4. The Lander Field Offices should review the existing RMP, the Programmatic BA, and FWS Biological Opinion. If you agree with the preliminary determination, please maintain the official hard copy of your RMP within 30 days of the date of this Instruction Memorandum (IM). Please also maintain the web-based copy of your RMP during the same timeframe. If you believe this action may require an RMP amendment, please contact Walt George, Wyoming State Office, at (307) 775-6116.

If you have further questions regarding this IM, please contact Jeff Carroll at (307) 775-6090.

/s/Alan L. Kesterke

1 Attachment:

1 - Fish and Wildlife Service Memorandum (ES-61411/W.02/WY9485; ES-6-WY.04-F022) with BO and concurrence statement. (42 pp.)