



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

Wind River/Bighorn Basin Fire Management Plan  
Wyoming Wind River/Bighorn Basin District: Cody Field Office,  
Lander Field Office, Worland Field Office

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### FMP Reader Instructions:

Throughout the document, where [manuals](#) and [handbooks](#) have been referenced, please remember to confirm whether additional direction has been issued since the most recent manual or handbook release in the form of Instruction Memorandums (available on the BLM Fire and Aviation Intranet [here](#) and on the Washington Office Intranet [here](#)).

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC: Area of Critical Environmental Concern	AQD: Air Quality Division
ATV: All-terrain Vehicle	AWP: Annual Work Plan
BAR: Burned Area Rehabilitation	BIA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM: Bureau of Land Management	BMP: Best Management Practice
BOR: Bureau of Reclamation	BR: Biological Resources
CFR: Code of Federal Regulations	COT: Conservation Objectives Team
CSU: Controlled Surface Use	CWPP: Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DDA: Designated Development Area	DEQ: Department of Environmental Quality
DOI: Department of Interior	DPC: Desired Plant Community
EA: Environmental Assessment	EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency	ES: Emergency Stabilization
ESA: Endangered Species Act	ESD: Ecological Site Description
ESR: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation	FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FM: Fire Management	FMP: Fire Management Plan
FMU: Fire Management Unit	FRCC: Fire Regime Condition Class
FWS: Fish and Wildlife Service	GAP: Gap Analysis Program
GHMA: General Habitat Management Area	GIS: Geographic Information System
GRSG: Greater Sage-Grouse	H <sub>2</sub> S: Hydrogen Sulfide
HMP: Habitat Management Plan	HR: Heritage Resources
IC: Incident Commander	LR: Land Resources
LUP: Land Use Plan	NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
NF: National Forest	NHPA: National Historic Preservation Act
NHT: National Historic Trail	NNL: National Natural Landmark
NPS: National Park Service	NRHP: National Register of Historic Places
NSO: No Surface Occupancy	OHV: Off-highway Vehicle
PESRP: Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan	PHMA: Priority Habitat Management Area
PR: Physical Resources	RAMP: Recreation Area Management Plan
RDF: Required Design Feature	RHT&EH: Regional Historic Trails and Early Highways
RMP: Resource Management Plan	ROW: Rights-of-Way
SCZ: Setting Consideration Zone	SD: Special Designations
SHPO: State Historic Preservation Officer	SMA: Special Management Area
SMP: Smoke Management Program	T&E: Threatened and Endangered Species
U.S.: United States	USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
VRM: Visual Resource Management	WRBBD: Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
WEPP: Water Erosion Prediction Project	WFDSS: Wildland Fire Decisions Support System
WGFD: Wyoming Game and Fish Department	WHMA: Wildlife Habitat Management Area
WSA: Wilderness Study Area	WSR: Wild and Scenic River
WUI: Wildland Urban Interface	WY: Wyoming
WYDOT: Wyoming Department of Transportation	

# 1. INTRODUCTION, POLICY, AND LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

## 1.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Fire Management Plan (FMP) is to describe how fire management strategies and tactics will protect values and provide tools to meet resource goals and objectives. The FMP tiers to decisions made in the Land Use Plans (LUPs) and subsequent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision(s). Development of FMPs is required by the 2009 Guidance for Implementation of Wildland Fire Management Policy. This plan has been prepared on the foundational principle that firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity.

The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District (WRBBD) is based out of Worland, Wyoming and lies in the north-west and central parts of the state. The WRBBD encompasses approximately 16.3 million acres with 5.6 million surface acres managed by the BLM. Ownership is comprised of BLM, State of Wyoming, private, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, and multiple other entities. The WRBBD is divided into three field offices: Cody, Lander, and Worland. The WRBBD is comprised of Big Horn, Carbon, Fremont, Hot Springs, Natrona, Park, Sweetwater, Teton, and Washakie counties in Wyoming. See Map 1 for an illustration of the WRBBD and surface ownership within the district.

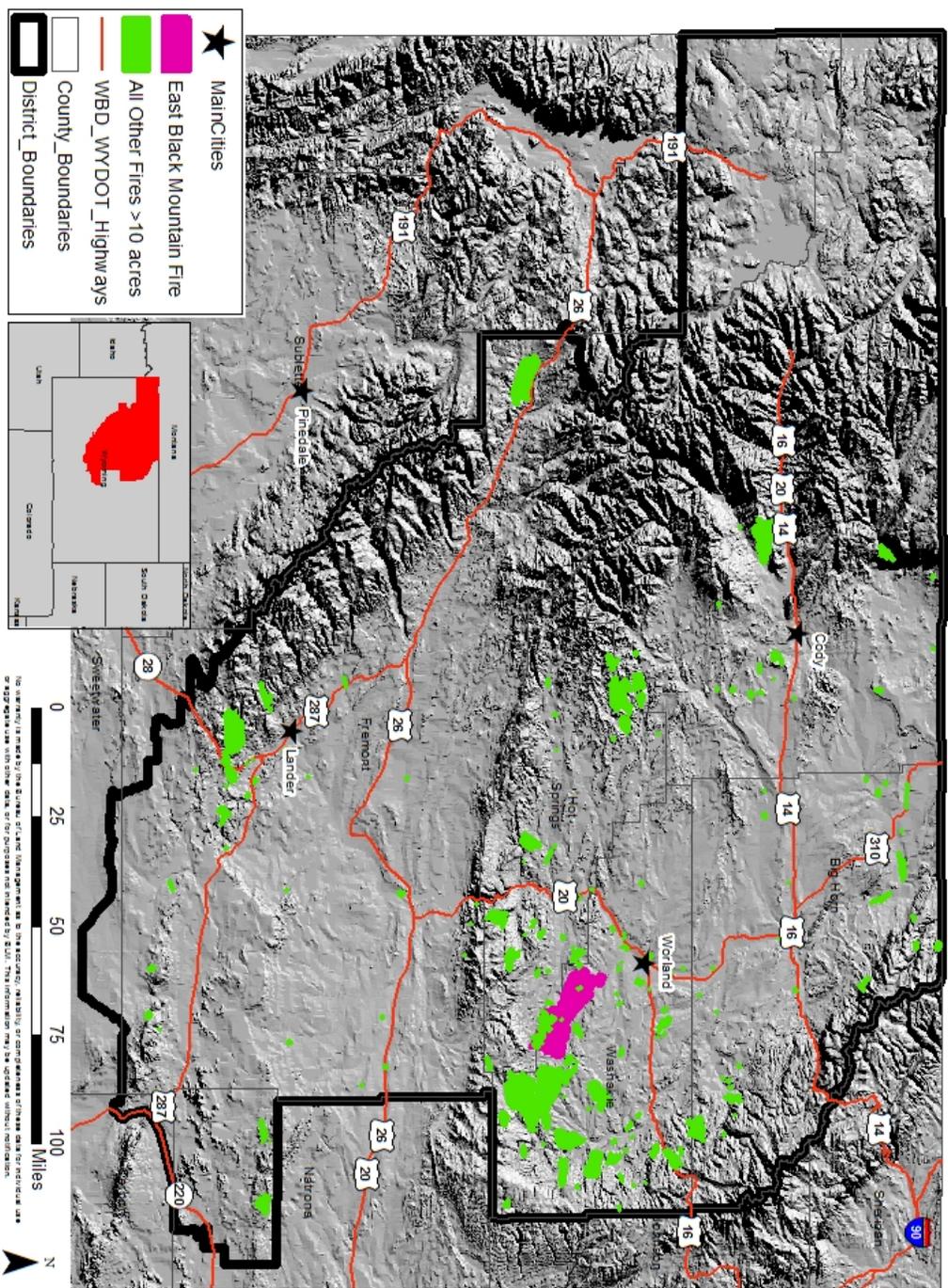
The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District is divided into 11 Fire Management Units (FMUs). An FMU is a management area definable by objectives, management constraints, topographic features, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types, and fire regime groups that set it apart from the management characteristics of an adjacent FMU. They can also be used for subsequent planning documents such as an Initial Attack Plan. The FMUs are listed below.

- Absaroka Front
- Basin Bottom
- Copper Mountain
- Dubois
- Foothills Sagebrush
- Green and Crooks Mountain
- Lander Slope
- Nowater
- Rattlesnake Hills
- Sweetwater Valley
- West Slope Bighorn

From 1996 to 2016 the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District has averaged about 57 wildfires per year. In that time frame approximately 258,455 acres have burned. The greatest amount of acres to burn in one year occurred in 1996 with a total of 110,067 acres. The greatest number of fire events in one year occurred in 2012 with a total of 146 fires. Most fires are smaller than 100 acres with natural causes accounting for over 60% of fires. Fires have occurred in every month of the year during this time period with most fires occurring March through April and June through September. The district's largest fire started on August 25, 1996; the East Black Mountain Fire started by natural causes and burned 48,843 acres, of which 36,123 acres were BLM lands. Rapid growth can occur any time of year when driven by high winds, low relative humidity, and when fine fuels have cured or shrubs are at low fuel moisture levels. Map 2 depicts the large fire events (defined as greater than 10 acres) between 1996 and 2016 in the WRBBD.



Map 2. Large Fire History in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District



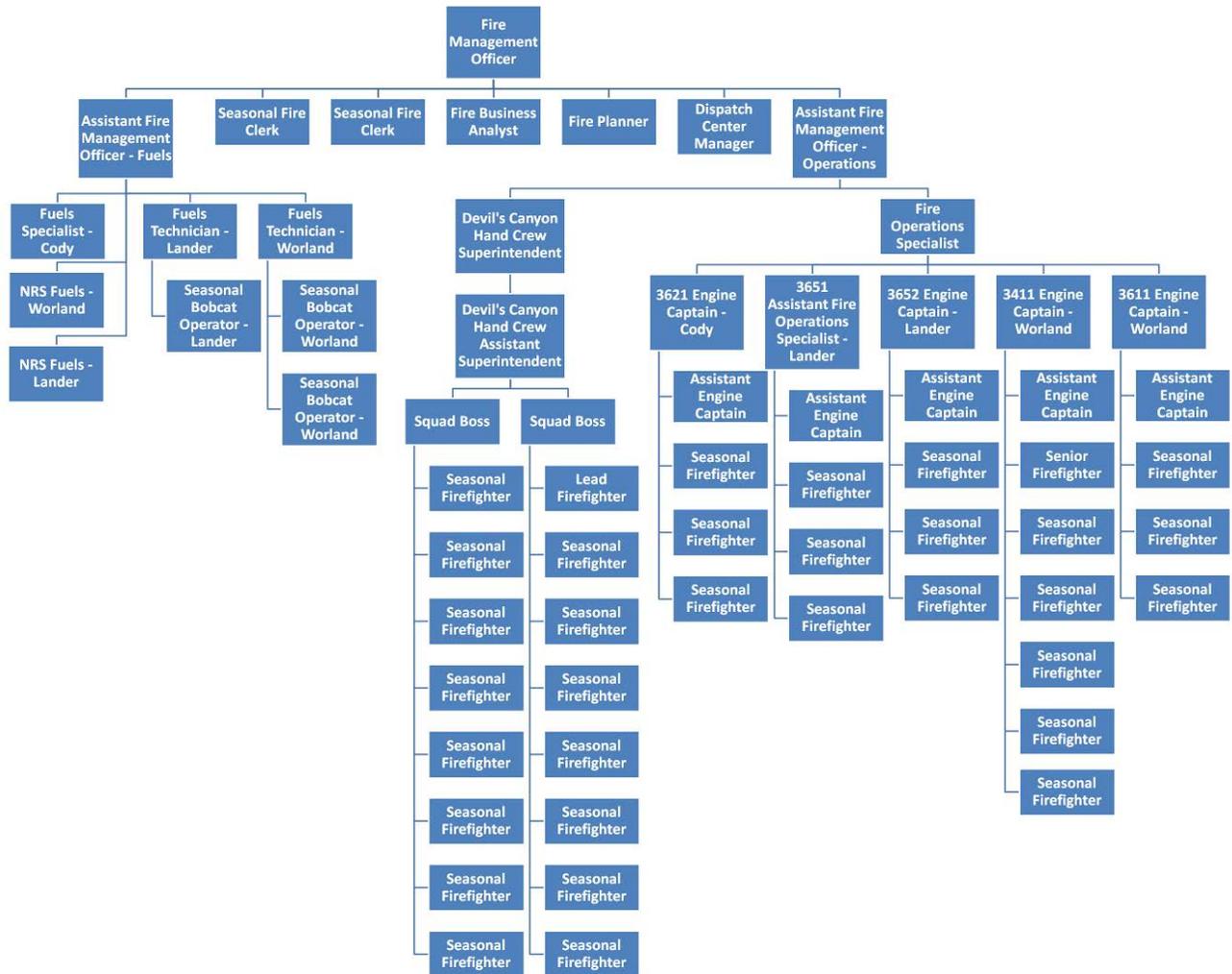
# Wind River/Bighorn Basin District

## Large Fire History 1996 - 2016



## 1.2 Program Organization

The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District has primary wildland fire suppression responsibility for 5.6 million acres of public lands managed by the BLM. The following table of organization outlines the WRBBD fire and fuels program.



### 1.2.1 Partnerships

The Wyoming Wind River/Bighorn Basin District fire program has collaborated with a number of internal and external partners in developing fire management strategies and goals. Collaborative partnerships are an integral part of the WRBBD fire program and provide the means for accomplishing a variety of program-wide objectives. Partners in this endeavor include:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Wind River Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- National Park Service
  - Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
  - Yellowstone National Park
- USDA Forest Service
  - Bighorn National Forest
  - Shoshone National Forest
- State of Wyoming
  - Wyoming State Department of Forestry
  - Wyoming Game and Fish Department
  - Office of State Lands and Investments
- Rural and Volunteer Fire Departments
  - Big Horn
  - Carbon
  - Fremont
  - Hot Springs
  - Natrona
  - Park
  - Sweetwater
  - Teton
  - Washakie

## **1.3 Environmental Compliance**

### **1.3.1 Fire Management Plan Compliance**

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – This FMP complies with the NEPA completed at the Land Use Plan (LUP) level for the Cody, Lander, and Worland planning areas.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) – BLM consulted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the LUPs listed in section 1.4. The Fire Management Plan complies with the resulting direction from those consultations.
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) – All FMP actions/decisions are in compliance with Section 106 of NHPA per the terms of the programmatic agreement between the BLM State Director and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

### **1.3.2 Incident or Implementation Compliance**

Prior to implementing fire management projects, additional environmental analysis and compliance with other federal and state regulatory requirements such as the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act will be required.

Agency Administrators or their designee will initiate emergency consultation with the FWS whenever suppression activities may impact listed Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species or their habitat and/or with SHPO or tribal entities whenever suppression activities impact Cultural sites. These activities could be coordinated to fire management personnel through a resource advisor.

## 1.4 Resource Management Planning

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directs the US Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop and periodically revise or amend its resource management plans (RMPs), which guide management of BLM-administered lands. The following RMPs provide the guidance for implementation of Fire Management Activities within the planning area. (click each document name for links to the RMPs available through [eplanning.blm.gov](http://eplanning.blm.gov))

- [Cody Resource Management Plan, September 2015](#)
- [Lander Resource Management Plan, June 2014](#)
- [Worland Resource Management Plan, September 2015](#)

## 1.5 Science

The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Fire Management Plan is based on the Cody, Lander, and Worland Approved Resource Management Plans. These plans used a systematic interdisciplinary approach to integrate physical, biological, economic, and other sciences. Adaptive management practices using the best available science guides fire management in promoting human safety as well as reducing hazardous conditions, conserving wildlife and its habitat, minimizing air quality impacts and meeting other desirable goals.

## 1.6 Climate Change

Climate affects virtually every physiological aspect of the ecology of wildlands within the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District. Climate encompasses temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind, precipitation, atmospheric particle count and other meteorological elemental measurements over long periods. The present conditions of these elements and their variations over shorter periods are expressed as weather and precipitation events.

Drought affects virtually all vegetation and other fuels (combustible organic material) by decreasing moisture availability through increased evapotranspiration and transpiration. Plant and soil moisture lost earlier in the season forces plants into dormancy earlier than normal. Dry plants and fuels are more susceptible to fire than plants and fuels with available moisture.

BLM considers climate change in all resource management planning activities. Impacts of climate change on the resources are mitigated in many of the Fire and Fuels management decisions. Policies, plans and adaptive management strategies that contribute to ecosystem resiliency, along with air, water and land health are in place. Fire management operations are to incorporate aspects of Environmental Management Systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by:

- utilizing green procurement
- reducing water and energy use at fire facilities
- fuel efficiency in the fire fleet and mechanized equipment
- reducing waste generation during fire and fuels operations

- increasing use of renewable energy
- implementing the DOI Climate Strategy

## 2. FIRE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals, Objectives, Constraints, and Actions for the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District are derived from the Cody, Lander and Worland Approved Resource Management Plans.

The first and foremost goal of the wildland fire program is to **protect human life for both firefighters and the public, while protecting communities, property, natural resources, and other values at risk.** The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District’s fire program is an integral part of the multiple-use mission of the BLM by supporting land use and resource management plans and their implementation. The following tables provides goals broken out by respective FMUs and LUPs. These overarching statements direct the fire program’s mission by linking wildland fire to all facets of natural resource management.

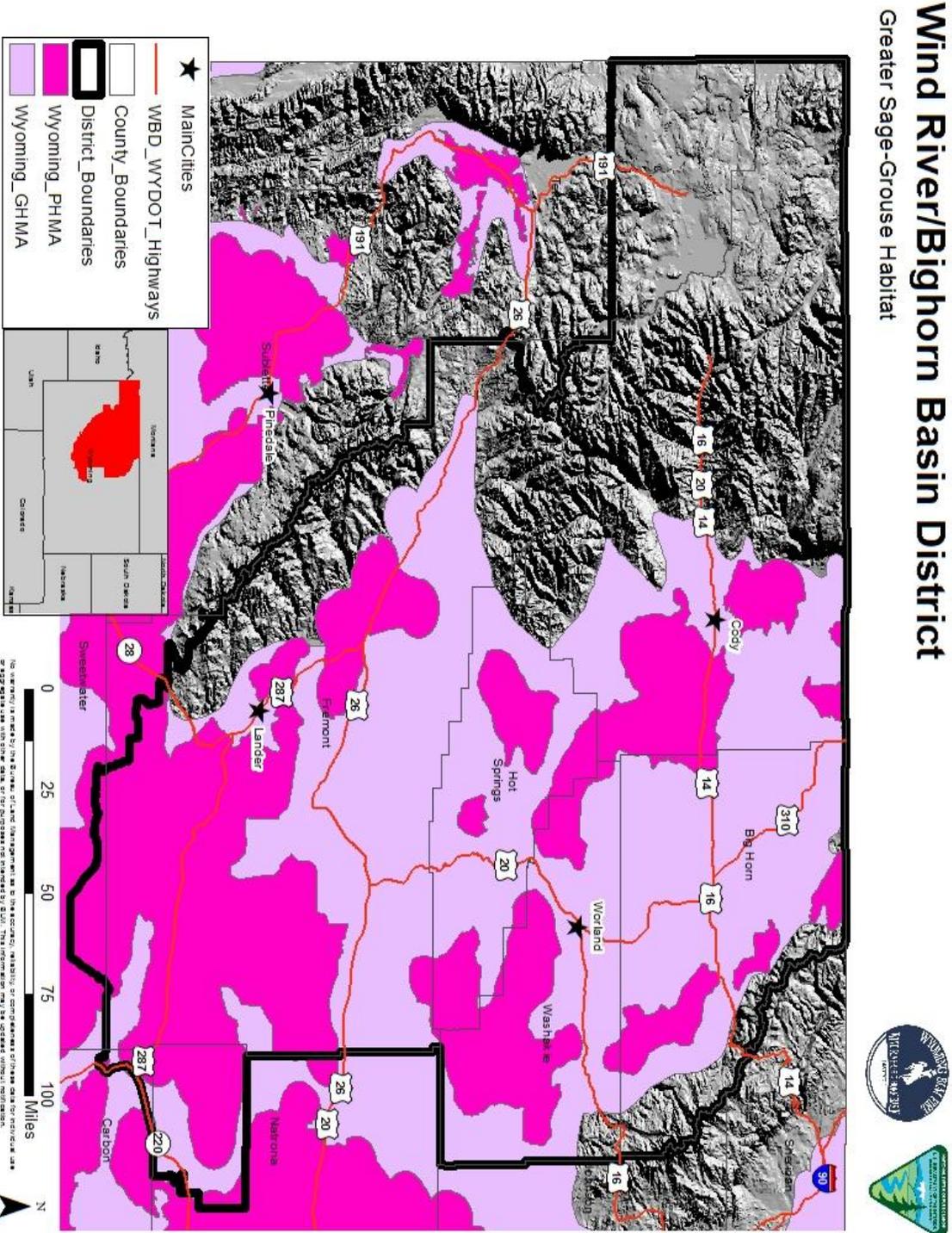
Although more prevalent in some FMUs than others, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat is common to all FMUs. This habitat for BLM Wyoming administered lands has been categorized as: Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA). These habitat designations are referred to throughout this section to depict management variations based on values at risk. Map 3 depicts the GRSG habitats found in the WRBBD. Table 1 shows the acreages of each habitat type in the WRBBD.

- **PHMA** - BLM-administered lands identified as having the highest value to maintaining sustainable GRSG populations. Areas of PHMA largely coincide with areas identified as Priority Areas for Conservation in the USFWS’s COT report (USFWS 2013). Boundaries for PHMA were adopted from version 3 of the State of Wyoming’s Core-Area strategy. The Lander RMP references Core-Area when addressing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. PHMA includes breeding, late brood-rearing, winter concentration areas, and migration or connectivity corridors.
- **GHMA** - BLM-administered lands where some special management will apply to sustain GRSG populations. Areas of occupied seasonal or year-round habitat outside of PHMAs.

Table 1. Acres of Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat on BLM lands in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District

GRSG Habitat Type	Cody	Lander	Worland	Total in WRBBD
PHMA	317,307	1,675,759	799,391	2,792,457
GHMA	740,797	696,186	1,290,562	2,727,545
Total	1,058,104	2,371,945	2,089,953	5,520,002

Map 3. Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District



The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District manages 11 FMUs. These units cover all the burnable acres within the district. The FMUs are divided based on fuel types, topographical features, and other characteristics. A description of each FMU is below. Map 4 depicts the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District's FMU boundaries.

- Absaroka Front
  - Location - The Absaroka Front FMU is located on the west side of the Bighorn Basin. It extends from the Montana border in the north to the southern boundary of the Worland Field Office at the Wind River Indian Reservation. It encompasses portions of the Shoshone, Greybull, and Big Horn Rivers' watersheds. It covers approximately 1,129,942 acres which includes 380,320 acres of BLM land, 7,781 acres of BOR land, 6,195 acres of Forest Service land, 542,056 acres of privately owned land, and 138,432 acres of State land.
  - Characteristics - The Absaroka Front FMU has a general topography of east slopes from the Absaroka Range with foothills and long drainages. Its elevation ranges from above 11,000 to 5,000 feet. The vegetation can be divided into six subtypes as follows: 4% desert salt shrub, 19% foothill Mountain Sagebrush and shrub, 14% juniper and limber pine, 4% mixed conifer, including lodgepole pine and riparian aspen, 53% sagebrush shrub critical habitat, and 6% of acres that include barren areas, alpine tundra, greasewood flats, and crop land. Air quality meets National Air Quality Standards. The mountain topography that characterizes the Absaroka Front FMU supports soils formed over volcanic bedrock, though soils derived from shale and sandstone are just as common. Due to the higher elevations and increased precipitation of this FMU, the soils are typically well developed and productive. However, these attributes also make these soils susceptible to erosion. The erosion hazard for most of the FMU is high and extreme. Based on Forest Service Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) interface, predicted erosion values following wildfire average 9 tons per acre and could exceed 45 tons per acre in a worst case scenario.
  - Values at Risk - Owl Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) is found in the southern part of this FMU as are two Areas of Critical and Environmental Concern (ACECs) - one located on Carter Mountain and the other located in the Owl Creek Drainage. The Carter Mountain ACEC has been designated to protect alpine tundra and fragile soils. The Owl Creek ACEC has been designated to ensure wildlife corridors, scenic values, and fragile environments. Wildlife values at risk include crucial habitat for deer, elk, and Bighorn sheep. Absaroka Front FMU also contains habitat for threatened and endangered grizzly bear and Canada lynx and the sensitive sage-Grouse and Mountain Plover, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Over 26,000 acres of commercial forest land are found in the Absaroka Front FMU as are oil and gas improvements and mining operations. Recreation values include campgrounds, developed trailheads, boat ramps, and fishing access points. Range improvements and livestock forage are present as are pre-historic and historic cultural sites including cabins, fences, traps, rock art, and pole structures.
- Basin Bottom
  - Location - The Basin Bottom FMU is located south of the Montana State line and west of the convergence of the Nowood and Bighorn Rivers near Manderson, Wyoming. Its western boundary is shared with the eastern boundary of the Foothills Sagebrush FMU. Part of its southwest boundary is the Bridger Trail and its eastern boundary the Bighorn

River. It covers approximately 929,866 acres which includes 623,586 acres of BLM land, 22,493 acres of BOR land, 3,543 acres of DOD land, 10,277 acres of National Park Service land, 234,850 acres of privately owned land, and 35,137 acres of State land.

- o Characteristics - The features of the Basin Bottom FMU include a dissected, rolling desert topography that includes salt flats, canyons, and, in some places, plains eroded to clay shale bedrock forming badlands. Elevation ranges from 3,600 to 5,900 feet. The vegetation can be divided into five subtypes as follows: 72% desert salt shrub, 1% juniper and limber pine, 2% mixed conifer, including lodgepole pine and riparian aspen, 4% sagebrush shrub critical habitat, and 21% of acres that include barren areas and greasewood flats. Air quality meets National Air Quality Standards. No Federally listed threatened or endangered species have been identified for the Basin Bottom FMU. The Bighorn River and its perennial tributaries contain fish species of concern: sturgeon chub, shovelnose sturgeon, sauger, western silvery minnow, and plains minnow. The Basin Bottom soils formed over interbedded sandstone and shale. This FMU's soils are poorly productive because of low average annual precipitation, generally less than 8 inches per year, and soil alkalinity and salinity. The erosion hazard for Basin Bottom FMU is moderate in the southern portion and high in the northern portion. Following wildfire, the predicted erosion values, based on Forest Service Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) interface, averages 2.5 tons in the southern portion and 4.2 tons per acre in the northern portion. The soil erosion worst case scenario for the southern and northern portions of this FMU ranges from 22 to 28 tons per acre, respectively.
- o Values at Risk - Wildlife values at risk include use as antelope winter range and existing sagebrush shrub habitat. Other values include use as winter livestock grazing and oil and gas production. Cultural resources at risk include Bridger Trail, Red Butte, and Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite.
- Copper Mountain
  - o Location - The Copper Mountain FMU is located north and northwest of Lysite and primarily consists of the Bridger Creek drainage, Copper and Lysite Mountains. The Wind River Indian Reservation borders this FMU on the west side. This area totals approximately 191,067 acres encompassing 53,456 acres of private land, 12,204 acres of state lands and 125,338 acres of BLM land and 66 acres of BOR lands.
  - o Characteristics - This FMU consists of lands characterized by steep terrain dissected by numerous small drainages. The Copper Mountain WSA is within this FMU. It encompasses 6,858 acres. There are three main dirt roads running north-south through this FMU, the Nowood, Bridger Creek, and Birdseye Pass Roads. The Badwater Road and Point of Mountain Road run east-west. Other than these roads, access in this FMU is very limited. Most two-track roads are navigable to four-wheel drive vehicles only. Elevations range from 5,400 to 8,200 feet. The dominant vegetation types within this FMU are Wyoming big sagebrush and mountain big sagebrush communities. Juniper is the main tree species, with lesser amounts of limber pine. Uses within this FMU include livestock grazing and oil and gas leasing. No ACEC exists within this FMU. This FMU is important habitat for elk, deer and antelope. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas

districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. Soils are residuum and alluvium derived from limestone, sandstone and shale, and granite. Higher elevations are dominated by rock outcrop and well-drained, loamy and gravelly soils. Soils found on floodplains, terraces and hills are loamy, channery and well-drained with the occurrence of rock outcrop. Soil depths are variable within the FMU depending on relief and aspect. Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.

- o Values at Risk - Primary values to be protected consist primarily of deer winter range, range improvements, some private and state lands intermingled within this FMU and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities that are known to occur in the FMU.
- Dubois
  - o Location - The Dubois FMU is located in the northwest corner of Wind River/Bighorn Basin District and in the northwest corner of Fremont County. The FMU is approximately 162,644 acres in size with 42,469 acres of public lands, 19,468 acres of Wyoming State lands, and 99,047 private acres.
  - o Characteristics - This FMU consists primarily of the upper Wind River drainage and with elevations ranging from 6,000 feet along the lower Wind River drainage corridor to 9,000 feet in the mountainous areas. Dominant vegetation types are varied with elevation and location. Drier vegetation sites are sparsely-vegetated and dominated by saltbrush and Wyoming sagebrush with bunchgrasses. Mid-elevation, deeper-soiled sites and areas receiving greater precipitation are dominated by basin and mountain big sagebrush, mixed mountain shrubs, limber pine, juniper and bunchgrasses. At higher elevations, the dominant species are lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. There are areas dominated by various mountain shrubs within the higher elevations. Air and water quality in the FMU meet National Air/Water Quality standards. Soils are alluvium and residuum derived from limestone in the upper elevations and from sand and siltstone in lower areas of the watershed. Soils are loamy and well-drained throughout this FMU. Higher elevations are mountainous landscapes, while lower elevations are hills, terraces, fan aprons, and badlands. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. This FMU has important habitat for elk, mule deer, moose and Bighorn sheep. The grizzly bear, bald eagle and Canada lynx are federally listed threatened and endangered species in the FMU. There are two ACECs within the FMU, Whiskey Mountain and Dubois Badlands. These ACECs are for bighorn sheep habitat and scenic qualities.
  - o Values at Risk - The natural resources values to be protected are mountain shrub habitat, aspen habitat, and forested communities. Important wildlife habitats to protect are bighorn sheep habitat and the habitat for Threatened and Endangered species Canada lynx and bald eagle. Additionally homes, ranch buildings and other improvements exist on intermingled lands throughout the FMU. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities that

are known to exist in the FMU are to be protected.

- Foothills Sagebrush
  - Location - The Foothills Sagebrush FMU is located in the interior portion of the Bighorn Basin. Its boundaries are defined by the sagebrush/grassland foothills of Owl Creek with Carter and the Absaroka Mountains on the western edge. It encompasses portions of the Greybull, Shoshone, and Bighorn River watersheds. It includes parts of Hot Springs, Park, Big Horn, and Washakie Counties. It covers approximately 1,318,566 acres which includes 790,157 acres of BLM land, 55,112 acres of BOR land, 71,014 acres of state land, and 402,283 acres of privately owned land.
  - Characteristics - The Foothills Sagebrush FMU has a general topography consisting of numerous long drainages separated by lower foothills. Elevations in this FMU range from above 6,000 to 3,600 feet. The vegetation can be divided into six subtypes as follows: 37% desert salt shrub, 0.25% Foothill Mountain sagebrush and shrub, 0.50% juniper and limber pine, 1.25% mixed conifer, including lodgepole pine and riparian aspen, 48% sagebrush shrub critical habitat, and 13% of acres that include barren areas, greasewood flats, and crop land. Cheatgrass is common in this FMU. Cheatgrass matures earlier than native species and provides easily ignited fuel that promote a rapid rate of fire spread. Greater fire frequencies occur which cause a lower species richness in native communities and increase the relative frequency of cheatgrass. Air quality meets National Air Quality Standards. No Federally listed threatened or endangered species have been identified for the Foothills Sagebrush FMU. The Foothills Sagebrush FMU is characterized by dissected, rolling foothills topography. Its soils formed over interbedded sandstone and shale. Moderately high precipitation, 10 to 14 inches per year, promotes productive soils. The erosion hazard ranking for river bottoms and benches is slight, while that for the steeper badland area is high. Predicted erosion values, based on Forest Service WEPP interface, for the sagebrush dominated communities averages 4.5 tons per acre and could be as high as 20 tons per acres in a worst case scenario.
  - Values at Risk - Wildlife values at risk include sage-grouse, mule deer, and antelope habitat. Oil and gas improvements and pre-historic and historic cultural sites are present.
- Green and Crooks Mountain
  - Location - The Green and Crooks Mountain FMU is centrally located in the state of Wyoming and is in the southern portion of Fremont County. This area totals approximately 284,435 acres encompassing 21,049 private acres, 240,446 acres of BLM land, and 22,927 acres of Wyoming State lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands and private lands.
  - Characteristics - The Green and Crooks Mountain FMU is dominated by an east to west oriented mountain range and surrounding foothills. Elevations range from 6,500 to 9,000 feet. Dominant vegetation types vary with elevation and location. Drier vegetation types at the lower elevations are Wyoming big sagebrush and bunchgrasses with riparian vegetation in the wet areas and limber pine on north and east exposures. Mid-elevation sites are dominated by Wyoming/ mountain big sagebrush, bitterbrush, mixed mountain shrubs, limber pine, aspen, and bunchgrasses. Higher elevation sites are generally timbered with limber pine, lodgepole, Douglas fir and aspen with inclusions of sagebrush/mixed mountain shrub parks. Air and water quality in the FMU meet National

Air/Water Quality standards. Soils are a mixture of alluvium and residuum from various sources, including shale and sandstone. Higher elevations are dominated by well-drained, loamy, cobbly or gravelly soils. Mid and lower elevation soils found on terraces, fan aprons, hills and ridges are well-drained and loamy to gravelly in texture. Soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect. There is limited but widespread access throughout the FMU. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. This FMU has important wildlife habitat for elk, deer, moose, and raptors and has a number of waterways that are important fisheries and habitat for beaver.

- o Values at Risk - Primary values to be protected are mountain shrub habitat, aspen habitat, and forested communities. Habitat associated with big game species and other wildlife species should be maintained and enhanced. Significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities are known to occur in the FMU. Oil and gas developments exist on Crooks Mountain. There is one ACEC within the FMU, with one section on the north side of Crooks Mountain that is approximately 2,700 acres and the other section on the north side of Green Mountain that is approximately 15,250 acres. This ACEC is for elk winter range and the Sparhawk Cabin.
- Lander Slope
  - o Location - The Lander Slope FMU is located west and southwest of Lander. Included in this FMU are the North Fork, Middle Fork, and the Little Popo Agie River drainages. This FMU is bordered on the southwest side by the Shoshone National Forest and on its north side by the Wind River Indian Reservation. This area totals 270,819 acres encompassing 111,253 acres of private land, 29,875 acres of Wyoming State lands and 129,350 acres of BLM lands and 61 acres of DOD lands.
  - o Characteristics - This FMU consists of foothills of the Wind River Range, characterized by moderately steep terrain dissected by steep river canyons. There are also numerous small canyons and streams within the FMU. Access in this FMU is limited by rough, rocky two-track roads, mainly navigable by four-wheel drive vehicles. Elevations range from 5,500 - 10,000 feet. The dominant vegetation types within this FMU are Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and lodgepole pine. Tree species also include aspen, limber pine and juniper, but to a lesser extent. Main uses of this FMU include livestock grazing and recreation. Approximately 52,000 acres of ACEC land exist in this FMU. Resource emphasis includes: scenic quality, crucial wildlife habitat, South Pass Historic Mining District, cultural and recreational values. This FMU contains the Red Canyon National Natural Landmark (NNL). Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. The Red Canyon Big Game Winter Range area is located at the southern end of the FMU. The FMU has important

habitat for elk, mule deer and moose. The west edge of the FMU (which borders the Shoshone NF) has potential habitat to support the grizzly bear and Canada lynx, which are threatened species. Soils within this FMU are extremely variable dependent upon location. Higher elevation areas on the Lander Slope are channery loam, loamy, and sandy loams derived from limestone and sandstone. The majority of the mid and lower elevation uplands and alluvial fans are clay loams and sandy clay loams derived from shale, sandstone and alluvium. There are also minor areas of mid-elevation soils that are loamy and derived from red beds. Soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect. Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.

- o Values at Risk - Primary values to be protected consist primarily of elk and deer winter range, range improvements, visual resources (as this area is on the front of the Wind River Range), large amounts of private and state lands intermingled within this FMU, and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities that are known to occur in the FMU.
- Nowater
  - o Location - The Nowater FMU is located south and east of the convergence of the Nowood and Bighorn Rivers near Manderson. Its southwest boundary is with the Wind River Indian Reservation and the easternmost boundary follows the Nowood River. It covers approximately 1,063,220 acres which includes 687,633 acres of BLM land including 1,419 acres of BOR land, 284,773 acres of private land, and 89,395 acres of state land.
  - o Characteristics - The general topography of the Nowater FMU is dissected and rolling. Elevations range from 4,000 to 5,500 feet. The vegetation can be divided into six subtypes as follows: 21% desert salt shrub, 2% Foothill Mountain sagebrush and shrub, 10% juniper and limber pine, 1% mixed conifer, including lodgepole pine and riparian aspen, 60% sagebrush shrub critical habitat, and 6% of acres that include barren areas and crop land. Cheatgrass is common in this FMU. Cheatgrass matures earlier than native species and provides easily ignited fuel that promote a rapid rate of fire spread. Greater fire frequencies occur which cause a lower species richness in native communities and increase the relative frequency of cheatgrass. Air quality meets National Air Quality Standards. No Federally listed threatened or endangered species have been identified for the Nowater FMU. The Bighorn River and its perennial tributaries contain fish species of concern: sturgeon chub, shovelnose sturgeon, sauger, western silvery minnow, and plains minnow. The Nowater FMU soils formed over interbedded sandstone and shale. Average annual precipitation is 8 to 14 inches with production varying with precipitation. Areas of high alkalinity and salinity reduce productivity in areas. Most of the FMU has a moderate erosion hazard ranking. Predicted erosion values, based on Forest Service WEPP interface, would range from 2.6 tons per acre in lower precipitation areas to 5.5 tons per acre in the higher precipitation zones following wildfire. Worst case scenarios predict erosion rates exceeding 20 tons per acre.
  - o Values at Risk - Values to be protected include existing sagebrush shrub habitat and the numerous oil production facilities within the FMU. Cultural resources at risk are historical cultural sites including cabins and fences.

- Rattlesnake Hills
  - Location - The Rattlesnake Hills FMU is located north of the Sweetwater River and east of the Sweetwater FMU. The area totals approximately 168,493 acres encompassing 39,241 acres of private land, 11,755 acres of Wyoming State lands and 117,495 acres of BLM lands. Public lands will be managed in conjunction with Wyoming State lands and private lands.
  - Characteristics - This FMU consists almost entirely of rangelands with limited acreages of woodlands. This FMU is considered to have limited access due to steep slopes and rock outcrops. Some areas have foot access only. Elevations range from 5,900 to 8,000 feet. The dominant shrub vegetation type within this FMU is Wyoming big sagebrush. Trees species include juniper, limber pine and aspen, but these species are found in limited areas. Important wildlife species in this area are elk, mule deer, Greater Sage-Grouse, and some fisheries. Uses within this FMU include livestock grazing, oil and gas leasing, and recreation. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. A portion of the Oregon-Mormon Pioneer Trail cuts through the southeast part of this FMU. Soil characteristics vary depending upon location within the Rattlesnake Hills FMU. Approximately half of the unit is loamy slopewash alluvium and residuum derived from limestone that is loamy in texture and moderately deep. The other significant soils component within the unit, usually found on steeper slopes (15-65% slope), is residuum derived from limestone that is cobbly loam in texture and shallow to very shallow in depth. The hazard of water erosion is very high within the FMU. In general, soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect. Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.
  - Values at Risk - Primary values to be protected consist of grazing, range improvements, oil and gas developments, wildlife habitat, and some private and state lands intermingled within this FMU and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildfire and/or related events or activities that are known to occur in the FMU.
- Sweetwater Valley
  - Location - This FMU is located in the center of the Lander Field Office and is bisected east to west by the Sweetwater River valley. The Beaver Rim uplift runs southwest to northeast across the FMU. The FMU totals approximately 2,108,950 acres encompassing 329,096 private acres, 1,596,391 acres of BLM land, 1,280 DOD acres, 6,805 BOR acres and 171,065 acres of Wyoming State lands.
  - Characteristics - This FMU consists almost entirely of sagebrush-grass rangelands with limited acreages of non-commercial forest lands. The Sweetwater River is the principal river system that is within this FMU. The Sweetwater Rocks WSA Complex is within this FMU. It is made up of the Split Rock, Miller Springs, Lankin Dome, and Savage Peak WSAs. The Complex encompasses 32,575 acres. Another WSA, Sweetwater Canyon WSA, is located in the southern part of the FMU. This WSA encompasses 9,056 acres.

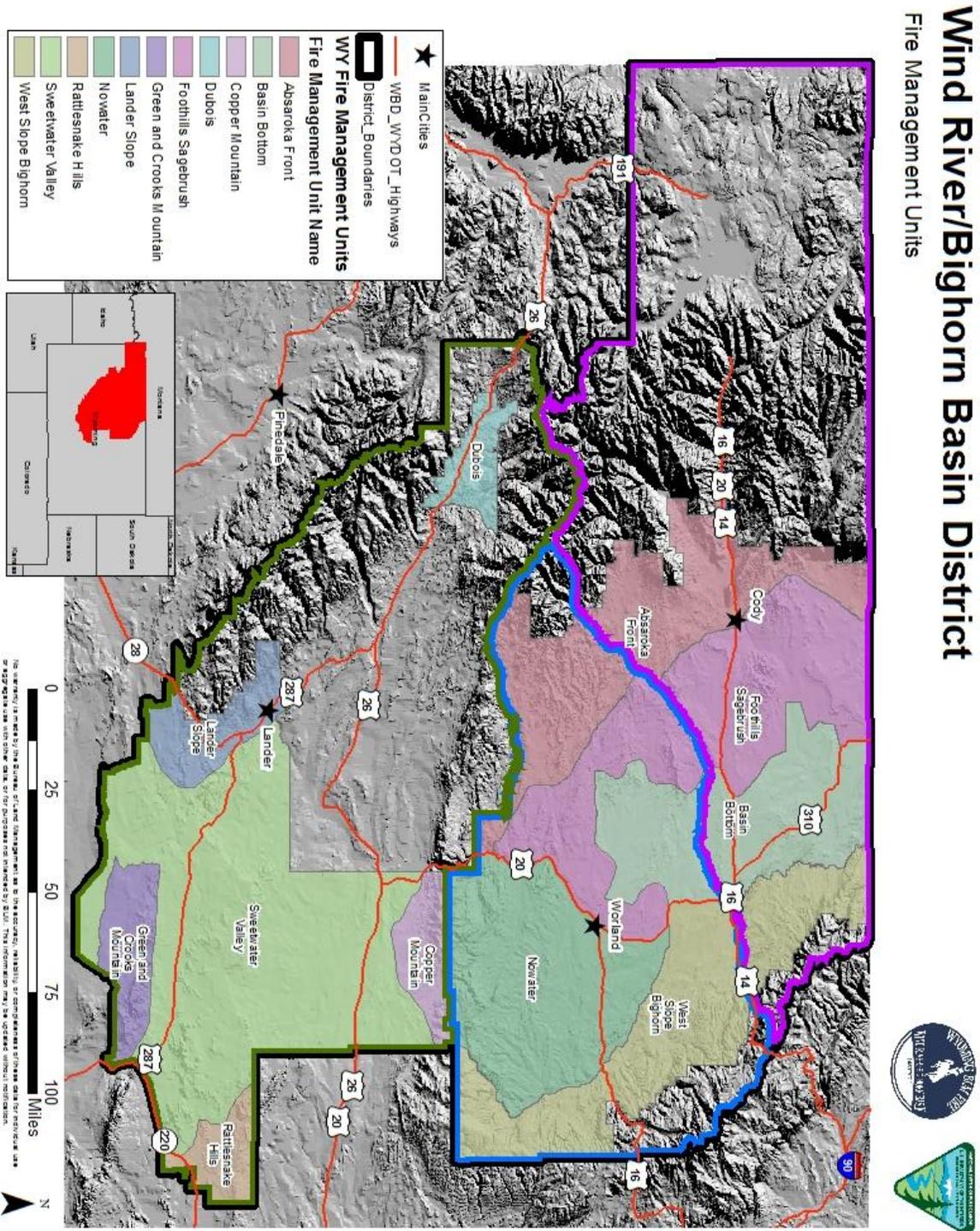
This FMU is considered to be accessible due to the number of roads and the terrain that are present. Elevations range from 4,800 to 8,200 feet. The dominant shrub vegetation type within this FMU is Wyoming big sagebrush. Trees species include juniper, limber pine and aspen, but these species are found in limited areas. Uses within this FMU include livestock grazing, oil and gas leasing, and recreation. Resource emphasis includes: Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, rare plants, raptors, and significant historic sites and segments along the Oregon/Mormon Pioneer Trails Corridor. Populations of the Desert Yellowhead, a threatened plant species, are found on Beaver Rim. This FMU has important wildlife habitat for antelope, mule deer, and Greater Sage-Grouse. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and places having traditional cultural significance to Native Americans are known to occur within this FMU. Some site types include lithic scatters, stone circle sites, stone cairns and alignments, camp sites, rock art panels, historic inscription localities, historic cabins and/or settlements (including homesteads), historic mining and/or oil and gas districts, emigrant trails, and historic transportation roads. Soils within this FMU are extremely variable. Floodplains, terraces, ridges and hills generally have well-drained loamy and gravelly soils. Certain floodplains, low terraces and drainages within the FMU have poorly drained loamy and sandy soils. There are well-drained loamy and sandy soils on fan aprons and dunes. Soils are derived from eolian, residuum and alluvium deposits derived from shale and sandstone. Soils vary in depth depending on relief and aspect. Air quality in the FMU has been designated as Class II under the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's approved State Implementation Plan and the water in perennial streams within the FMU are generally of good quality.

- o Values at Risk - Primary values to be protected consist of grazing, range improvements, oil and gas developments, wildlife habitat, and some private and state lands intermingled within this FMU and significant prehistoric and historic sites that are vulnerable to wildland fire and/or related events or activities that are known to occur in the FMU.
- West Slope Bighorn
  - o Location - The West Slope Bighorn FMU is located east and south of the convergence of the Nowood and Bighorn Rivers, near Manderson. Its western boundary follows the Bighorn River south from the Montana State line to Manderson, Wyoming, then south along the Nowood River to the southern edge of the Washakie County border line. Its eastern boundary is from the Montana state line south along the Bighorn Mountains to the eastern edge of the Worland Field Office boundary. It covers approximately 1,116,093 acres which includes 657,780 acres of BLM land, 81 acres of BOR land, 1,188 acres of Forest Service land, 5,229 acres of Park Service land, 402,226 acres of private land, and 79,589 acres of state land.
  - o Characteristics - The general topography of the West Slope Bighorn FMU increases in elevation from west to east with elevations ranging from 4,000 to 8,200 feet. The vegetation can be divided into seven subtypes as follows: 23% desert salt shrub, 16% Foothill Mountain sagebrush and shrub, 18% juniper and limber pine, 7% mixed conifer, including lodgepole pine and riparian aspen, 1% Ponderosa pine, 27% sagebrush shrub critical habitat, and 8% of acres that include barren areas, subalpine meadows, and cropland. Starting at the base of the mountains and proceeding upslope, four distinct timber zones are present. The first is a juniper woodlands zone followed by a

ponderosa pine belt. The third zone is mixed conifers on north-facing slopes and lastly a zone of lodgepole pine intermingled with aspen. Air quality meets National Air Quality Standards. Two federally listed endangered species have been identified for the West Slope Bighorn FMU – the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon. The Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a BLM Species of Special Concern, is found in this FMU. The Bighorn River and its perennial tributaries contain fish species of concern: sturgeon chub, shovelnose sturgeon, sauger, western silvery minnow, and plains minnow. The West Slope Bighorn FMU is dissected and rolling east of the Bighorn Mountains foothills. Average annual precipitation is 10 to 18 inches with productivity varying with it. The erosion hazard ranking changes from slight to high moving east from its western boundary along the Bighorn River. The northern most area of this FMU has an erosion hazard rating of extreme. Predicted erosion values, based on Forest Service WEPP interface, following wildfire average 8 tons per acre. The worst case scenario predicts erosion rates exceeding 21 tons per acre.

- o Values at Risk - Values at risk include sagebrush shrub habitat and elk and mule deer wintering grounds. Also, there is approximately 14,418 acres of commercial forestland. There are cabins, outbuildings, recreational sites and other structures interspersed throughout the FMU.

Map 4. Fire Management Units (FMUs) in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District



## 2.1 Goals/Objectives/Actions/Constraints

Below are tables with goals, objectives, actions, and constraints from each respective land use plan. The RMP direction is generally not specific to an FMU, but to all lands within the Field Office; therefore, the goals, objectives, actions, and constraints apply to all FMUs within each Field Office. These goals, objectives, actions, and constraints are only related to wildfire to keep this section of the FMP concise and unclouded by RMP directions that relate to pre-planned, fuels related projects.

### 2.1.1 Cody Resource Management Plan

The following Table outlines goals, objectives, actions, and constraints for the Cody Resource Management Plan area. This direction applies to portions of the **Absaroka Front, Foothills Sagebrush, Basin Bottom, and West Slope Bighorn FMUs** that are within the Cody Field Office. For RMP maps referenced in the table [click here](#).

MISSION STATEMENTS		
Citation	Resource	Statement
PR:1	Air Quality	Minimize the impact of management actions in the planning area on air quality by complying with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and regulations.
PR:2	Air Quality	Improve air quality in the planning area as practicable.
PR:2.1	Air Quality	Reduce visibility-impairing pollutants in accordance with the reasonable progress goals and time-frames established within the State of Wyoming's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan.
PR:2.2	Air Quality	Reduce atmospheric deposition pollutants to levels below generally accepted levels of concern and levels of acceptable change.
1005	Air Quality	The State of Wyoming has primary responsibility (primacy) for administering and enforcing air quality standards and regulations within the state.  BLM actions will conform with Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Standards and Regulations through application of BMPs and other measures consistent with resource goals and objectives.
PR:3	Soils	Maintain or improve soil health (e.g., chemical, physical, and biotic properties) while focusing on making significant progress toward meeting the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997).
PR:3.1	Soils	Apply guidelines and appropriate measures to all management actions (including reclamation) affecting soil health to decrease erosion and sedimentation, to achieve and maintain stability, and to support the hydrologic cycle by providing for water capture, storage, and release.
PR:4	Water	Maintain the quality of surface water and groundwater resources, maintain compliance with applicable federal and state water quality standards, and improve water quality where practical within the scope of the BLM's authority.
PR:4.3	Water	Manage watersheds to prevent accelerated channel erosion and

		undesirable adjustments in channel geometry (e.g., width-depth ratio, sinuosity, bank stability, gradient) of stream channels within the authority of the BLM.
PR:4.6	Water	Manage pollutants on federal lands to minimize threats to drinking water sources.
PR:6	Cave & Karst	Conserve significant cave and karst resources and enhance educational and scientific research opportunities relative to cave and karst resources in the planning area.
PR:6.1	Cave & Karst	Manage significant cave resources as mandated by the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.
FM:1	Fire & Fuels	The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.
FM:1.1	Fire & Fuels	Maintain partnerships with the public and interagency cooperators to strengthen coordination of all fire management activities and encourage the creation of fire safe communities.
FM:1.2	Fire & Fuels	Enhance the wildland fire public education prevention program regarding wildland fire.
FM:1.3	Fire & Fuels	Manage fuels to restore and maintain landscapes, and promote fire-adapted communities and infrastructure. Fire and fuels management actions will focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies, and accomplishing DPC objectives.
FM:1.4	Fire & Fuels	Utilize fire management strategies and tactics that are appropriate for the values at risk while also minimizing impacts on resource values.
FM:1.5	Fire & Fuels	Following wildland fires, conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation when and where needed. In priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas, prioritize suppression immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat. In general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.
FM:1.6	Fire & Fuels	Management of fire and fuels will be as consistent as possible with approved local fire plans in coordination with counties, cooperators, and stakeholders.
FM:2	Fire & Fuels	Restore natural fire regimes and frequencies to the landscape, and utilize fire and vegetation treatments to accomplish DPC objectives.
FM:2.2	Fire & Fuels	Implement and maintain a FMP for the planning area; the FMP identifies the site-specific fire management practices and fuels treatment actions needed to meet this RMP's goals and objectives and includes a focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies or accomplishing DPC objectives.
3015	Fire & Fuels	Utilize wildland fires (wildfires managed for resource benefit and prescribed fires) and other vegetation treatments to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce hazardous fuels, and accomplish resource

		management objectives.
BR:1	Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products	Maintain, enhance, or restore forest stand community health, composition, and diversity taking into account density, basal area, canopy cover, age class, stand health, and understory components.
BR:1.1	Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products	Maintain overall forest health by managing forest and woodland stands for endemic populations of native insects and disease.
4023	Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products	Use logging, timbering, or wildland fire when appropriate to revitalize decadent stands and improve stand density.
BR:2	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Manage vegetation resources to meet DPC objectives.
BR:2.1	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Manage native plant communities to restore, maintain, or enhance vegetation community health, composition, and diversity to provide a mix of successional stages that incorporate diverse structure and composition into the desired vegetation types.
BR:2.2	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Maintain, improve, enhance, or restore native plant communities to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of native and desirable nonnative plant species and wildlife habitat.
BR:2.3	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Maintain, improve, or enhance areas of ecological importance, priority plant species and habitats, and unique plant associations with native plant communities.
BR:2.4	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Manage native plant communities across landscapes through cooperation with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders.
BR:2.5	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, and stakeholders to protect and recover native plant communities, and their included vegetative resources and habitat components affected by extreme environmental conditions.
BR:2.6	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	In PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Technical Reference 1734-6 [BLM 2005c]).
4031	Vegetation – Grassland and	Manage to maintain contiguous blocks of native plant communities and minimize fragmentation; allow for appropriate mosaic of interrelated

	Shrubland Communities	plant communities while allowing for other resource uses.
BR:3	Vegetation – Riparian/Wetland Resources	Manage riparian/wetland areas to provide a natural combination of vegetation and landform to provide the habitat and the water conditions necessary for aquatic and terrestrial species.
BR:4	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Manage for healthy native plant communities by reducing, preventing expansion of, or eliminating the occurrence of undesirable invasive, nonnative species, undesirable, nonnative, or noxious weeds (predatory plant pests or disease) by implementing management actions consistent with national guidance and state and local weed management plans.
4046	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Cooperate and coordinate with appropriate government agencies, private industry, and other interested stakeholders in public education, research, management, and control of aquatic invasive species.
BR:5	Fish and Wildlife Resources	In compliance with the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997), manage for the biological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to sustain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat, while providing for multiple uses of BLM-administered lands.
BR:5.1	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Manage habitat to conserve, recover, and maintain fish and wildlife consistent with appropriate local, state, and federal management plans.
BR:6	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Manage environmental risks and associated impacts in a manner compatible with sustaining plant, fish, and wildlife populations.
BR:6.1	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Minimize, avoid, and mitigate impacts of environmental risks on fish and wildlife.
4059	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of <i>The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management</i> (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002) and the <i>Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities</i> (Appendix F, <i>Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities</i> ), BMPs (Appendix C, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i> ), and similar guidance updated over time.
BR:7	Special Status Species	WILDLIFE - Manage for the biological integrity and habitat functionality to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of fish and wildlife to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.
BR:7.1	Special Status Species	Maintain or enhance areas of ecological importance for special status wildlife species.
BR:8	Special Status Species	PLANTS – Manage for the biological integrity and habitat function to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of BLM special status plant species and to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.

BR:8.2	Special Status Species	Protect or enhance habitat for BLM special status plant species.
BR:9	Special Status Species	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE – Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater Sage-Grouse and other species by achieving the objectives below.
BR:9.1	Special Status Species	Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on patches occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.
BR:9.2	Special Status Species	Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on connections between habitats occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.
HR:1	Cultural Resources	Identify, preserve, and protect cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA, Section 103(c), 201(a) and (c); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)).
HR:1.2	Cultural Resources	Reduce imminent threats to cultural resources from natural or human-caused deterioration.
HR:2.3	Cultural Resources	Coordinate with other BLM programs preplanning measures to prevent potential conflicts before they occur.
HR:3	Cultural Resources	Protect important cultural resources while minimizing economic and social impacts to private landowners and local communities.
HR:3.3	Cultural Resources	Preserve and stabilize important cultural resources, especially resources that face immediate threat or are in high public use areas.
5006		Appropriately protect sites listed on the NRHP. Protect and manage sites that are eligible for or listed on the NRHP. Manage sites allocated for conservation, traditional use, or public use to avoid adverse effects; manage sites allocated for scientific or experimental use for their research potential. Protect and manage National Historic Landmarks through management of non-compatible uses.
HR:4	Paleontological Resources	Manage, preserve, and protect paleontological resources and areas on BLM-administered land in the planning area.
HR:4.1	Paleontological Resources	Reduce threats to paleontological resources from natural or human-caused deterioration.
LR:4	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management	Utilize a comprehensive approach to travel planning and management to sustain and enhance use.
LR:4.1	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management	All BLM-administered lands will be classified as open, limited, or closed to motorized travel in consideration of other resource program goals and objectives, primary travelers, objectives for allowing travel in the area, setting (recreation, visual, archeological) characteristics that are to be maintained, and primary means of travel.
SD:1	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of	Protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or process, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

	Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	
SD:1.1	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs within appropriate geographical areas.
SD:3	Regionally Important Prehistoric and Historic Trails	Manage Historic Trails for long-term heritage and educational values and to enhance the public experience.
SD:3.2	Regionally Important Prehistoric and Historic Trails	Maintain setting for those contributing trail segments where setting is an aspect of integrity by utilizing viewshed management tools.
<b>PRE-SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
3007	Fire and Fuels	Maintain and implement an FMP consistent with this RMP to address fire management on a landscape scale. Under the appropriate environmental conditions the use of unplanned ignitions for resource benefit and prescribed fire to meet resource management objectives is allowed in the entire planning area.
4103	Special Status Species	Annually maintain FMPs to incorporate updated sagebrush habitat information as well as fire suppression priorities in sagebrush habitats. Incorporate fire management objectives for the management of sagebrush ecosystems into FMPs. Provide fire management objectives for sagebrush ecosystems to initial attack personnel at the beginning of each fire season.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Compile district-level information into state-wide Greater Sage-Grouse tool boxes. Tool boxes will contain maps, listing of resource advisors, contact information, local guidance, and other relevant information for each district, which will be aggregated into a state-wide document.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Provide localized maps to dispatch offices and extended attack incident commanders for use in prioritizing wildfire suppression resources and designing suppression tactics.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	On critical fire weather days, pre-position additional fire suppression resources to optimize a quick and efficient response in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Reduce the risk of vehicle or human-caused wildfires and the spread of invasive species into Greater Sage-Grouse habitats could be minimized by planting perennial vegetation (e.g., green-strips) paralleling road

		ROWs (this BMP could be applied to BLM linear ROW authorizations).
<b>SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
3003	Fire & Fuels	Base the response to wildfires consistent with objectives and the cost/benefits of the resources at risk. For Wildland Fire Management, the protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.
3008	Fire & Fuels	<p>Suppress fires threatening Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and crucial winter wildlife habitat within Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Where fire would be utilized to meet resource objectives, work closely with resource specialists to protect and improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.</p> <p>For fuels management, the BLM would consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and would analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in PHMAs. If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options;</li> <li>● how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use;</li> <li>● how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; and</li> <li>● a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized.</li> </ul> <p>Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMAs (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities).</p> <p>Prescribed fire in known crucial winter wildlife habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in and/or around crucial winter wildlife habitat must be strategically-designed to reduce wildfire risk and protect winter range habitat quality.</p>
3014	Fire & Fuels	Response to wildland fire may vary from full suppression in areas where

		fire is undesirable, to monitoring fire behavior in areas where fire can be used as a management tool.
4102	Special Status Species	Conduct fire management activities to minimize overall wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush plant communities where Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives are at risk. General priorities for habitat protection: Priority # 1 – Protection of Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs. Priority # 2 – Wyoming big sagebrush communities outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs and habitats recovering from disturbance within or adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Assign a resource advisor with Greater Sage-Grouse expertise, or who has access to Greater Sage-Grouse expertise, to all extended attack fires in or near Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas. Prior to the fire season, provide training to Greater Sage-Grouse resource advisors on wildfire suppression organization, objectives, tactics, and procedures to develop a cadre of qualified individuals.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	As appropriate, utilize existing fuel breaks, such as roads or discrete changes in fuel type, as control lines in order to minimize fire spread.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	During periods of multiple fires, ensure line officers are involved in setting priorities.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Utilize retardant, mechanized equipment, and other available resources to minimize burned acreage during initial attack.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	As safety allows, conduct mop-up where the black adjoins unburned islands, dog legs, or other habitat features to minimize sagebrush loss.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Adequately document fire operation activities in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat for potential follow-up coordination activities.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Use fire prescriptions that minimize undesirable effects on vegetation or soils (e.g., minimize mortality of desirable perennial plant species and reduce risk of hydrophobicity).
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Where applicable, incorporate roads and natural fuel breaks into fuel break design.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Protect wildland areas from wildfire originating on private lands, infrastructure corridors, and recreational areas.

<b>POST-SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
3002	Fire & Fuels	Implement the BLM Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation standards located in the BLM Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook (BLM 2007b).
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Restore prior perennial grass/shrub plant communities infested with nonnative invasive species to a species composition characterized by perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs as outlined in ESDs.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Emphasize the use of native plant species, recognizing that nonnative species may be necessary depending on the availability of native seed and prevailing site conditions.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Design post Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation and Burned Area Emergency Response management to ensure long term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse and burro, and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation and Burned Area Emergency Response projects to benefit Greater Sage-Grouse. Include Greater Sage-Grouse habitat parameters as defined by Connelly et al., Hagen et al., or if available, State Sage-Grouse Conservation plans and appropriate local information in habitat restoration objectives. Make maintaining these objectives within priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas a high restoration priority.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Make re-establishment of sagebrush and desirable understory plant cover (relative to ecological site potential) a high priority for restoration efforts. Write specific vegetation objectives to reestablish Greater Sage-Grouse cover and desirable understory cover.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Give priority for implementing specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat restoration projects in areas infested with undesirable annual grasses first to sites which are adjacent to or surrounded by Greater Sage-Grouse key habitats. Areas infested with undesirable annual grasses are second priority for restoration when the sites not adjacent to key habitat, but within two miles of key habitat. The third priority for areas infested with undesirable annual grasses habitat restoration projects are sites beyond two miles of key habitat. The intent is to focus restoration outward from existing, intact habitat.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Emphasize the use of native plant species, recognizing that nonnative species may be necessary depending on the availability of native seed and prevailing site conditions.
<b>WILDLAND FIRE RELATED OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
1007	Soils	Use BMPs to reduce runoff, soil erosion, and sediment yield, and to retain water on the landscape.
1010	Soils	Allow surface-disturbing activities on fragile soils, biological crusts, soils with low reclamation potential, and soils with highly erosive

		characteristics on a case-by-case basis.
1026	Water	Avoid aerial application of fire suppressant chemicals within 300 feet of perennial waters. Consider ground-based application on a case-by-case basis.
1027	Water	Protect watershed resources through the application of watershed conservation practices and BMPs.
1042	Water	Avoid activities that could negatively affect water resources within a ¼ mile area around public water supply wells, and an area including ¼ mile on both sides of a river or stream, for 10 miles upstream of the public water supply intake, within the watershed. For lakes and reservoirs, this would include a ¼ mile area around the waterbody. For unavoidable activities in these areas, site specific mitigation will be included to minimize risk of adverse impacts.
1048	Cave & Karst	Accomplish cave resource protection and provide for user safety with controls such as timing of use to avoid crowding and closing caves to use during periods of high water runoff. Close cave and karst areas during all critical periods for bats and when user safety is at risk due to high water, radon, H2S, and fire.
3004	Fire & Fuels	Restrict or prohibit the use of fire retardant chemicals as appropriate to protect rock art. Avoid aerial application of fire suppressant chemicals within 300 feet of perennial waters. Consider ground-based application on a case-by-case basis.
3005	Fire & Fuels	Prohibit the use of bulldozers in areas of important cultural resources or historic trails for fire suppression unless an archeologist and/or resource advisor is present.
3006	Fire & Fuels	Assign an archeologist to all fires with heavy equipment employed beyond Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (see Glossary) to assist in determinations of appropriate suppression strategies.
3009	Fire & Fuels	Protect facilities or habitable structures from fire.
3011	Fire & Fuels	In cooperation with the WGFD, identify waters that contain high-risk aquatic invasive species. Avoid using these identified water sources for suppression activities except in cases where public and firefighter safety are threatened.
3012	Fire & Fuels	Clean (i.e., disinfect) fire-fighting equipment where water sources containing high-risk aquatic invasive species must be utilized.
4036	Vegetation – Riparian/Wetland Resources	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water and riparian/wetland areas (30,914 acres) except when such activities are necessary and when their impacts can be mitigated.
4054	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Apply an NSO restriction and prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet and apply a CSU and avoid surface-disturbing activities within ¼ mile of any waters rated by the WGFD as Blue Ribbon or Red Ribbon (trout streams of national or statewide importance).
4061	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in the Bighorn River HMP/RAMP tracts and the BLM-administered tracts in Yellowtail WHMA and apply an NSO restriction as appropriate. Exceptions include casual

		use and uses related to the development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat, including vegetation treatments.
4107	Special Status Species	<p>Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse (Map 3-17).</p> <p>Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a ¼-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (Map 3-17).</p> <p>Outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the BLM’s goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the Greater Sage-Grouse population to facilitate movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states.</p>
4108	Special Status Species	<p>Inside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (81,281 acres).</p> <p>Outside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a ¼ mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (3,157 acres).</p> <p>Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat (1,021,583 acres). Apply this timing limitation throughout the PHMAs. Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30.</p> <p>Note: Where credible data support different timeframes for these</p>

		seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.
4113	Special Status Species	In PHMAs, implement mitigation and minimization guidelines and required design features, including specific measures for Greater Sage-Grouse (refer to Appendix C, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices) as applicable and consistent with EO 2015-4 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2015). Incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership.
4142	Special Status Species	Allow the application of fire suppression chemicals within ¼ mile of known/documented populations of BLM special status plant species with the consent of the authorized officer.
5016	Cultural Resources	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas containing important cultural and paleontological resources.
5023	Cultural Resources	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails, except where other resources impose more restrictive conditions, on BLM-administered land along the Bighorn Slope and Absaroka Foothills to manage (minimize issues such as looting) for cultural and paleontological resources.
5025	Paleontological Resources	Protect vertebrate and scientifically significant paleontological resources on BLM-administered land from proposed surface-disturbing activities that could damage or destroy these resources.
5026	Paleontological Resources	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in areas in the immediate vicinity of scientifically significant paleontological resource sites.
5027	Paleontological Resources	Avoid adverse effects on resource values to sites listed in National Park Service inventories of possible National Natural Landmarks.
5032	Paleontological Resources	Close or restrict uses upon discovery of vertebrate or scientifically significant paleontological resources on a case-by-case basis.
5038	Paleontological Resources	Within 100 feet of a paleontological discovery, prohibit the resumption of activity until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer.
5039	Paleontological Resources	Allow surface-disturbing activities within at least 100 feet of the outer edge of the paleontological locality if the impacts can be adequately mitigated.
6041	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management	Motorized travel use is allowed throughout the planning area for emergency and administrative use, through other authorities, and maintenance and operations as authorized by permit on case-by-case basis.
7021	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental	Restrict the use of heavy equipment in the Carter Mountain ACEC during fire suppression operations to protect fragile soils and alpine tundra.  Prescribed fire may be used as appropriate to accomplish identified multiple use management objectives.

	Concern (ACECs)	
7035	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	During fire suppression operations, restrict the use of heavy equipment within the Five Springs Falls ACEC. Use prescribed fire as appropriate to accomplish identified multiple use management objectives.
7043	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	During fire suppression operations, restrict the use of heavy equipment over important caves and cave passages within the Little Mountain ACEC and the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA.
7096	Regionally Important Prehistoric and Historic Trails	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and protect the foreground of Historic Trails (defined in Glossary) up to 2 miles or the visual horizon within contributing portions of the trail whichever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the trail. The 2-mile buffer would also apply to areas unevaluated until it is determined that setting is not an important aspect of the integrity of the trail. Use BMPs (Appendix C, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects, except within designated utility corridors.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	To the extent possible, locate wildfire suppression facilities (i.e., base camps, spike camps, drop points, staging areas, heli-bases, etc.) in areas where physical disturbance to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat can be minimized. These include disturbed areas, grasslands, near roads/trails or in other areas where there is existing disturbance or minimal sagebrush cover.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Power-wash all firefighting vehicles, to the extent possible, including engines, water tenders, personnel vehicles, and ATVs prior to deploying in or near Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas to minimize noxious weed spread.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Minimize unnecessary cross-country vehicle travel during fire operations in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Minimize burnout operations in key Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas by constructing direct fireline whenever safe and practical to do so.
Append C.3	Decontamination Procedure for Aquatic Invasive Species	To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department recommends following the guidelines outlined in the Aquatic Invasive Species in Wyoming brochure (link below). Specific BMPs to aquatic invasive species spread prevention include, but are not limited to:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decontamination should first occur before arrival at a project site, so aquatic invasive species are not transferred from the last visited area. Decontamination should occur again before leaving a project site, so aquatic invasive species are not transferred to the next site.</li> <li>● Decontamination may consist of either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drain all water from equipment and compartments, clean equipment of all mud, plants, debris, or animals, and dry equipment for five days in summer (June, July, and August); 18 days in spring (March, April, and May) and fall (September, October, and November); or three days in winter (December, January, and February) when temperatures are at or below freezing,</li> <li>-or-</li> <li>2. Use a high pressure (2,500 pounds per square inch [psi]) hot water (140°F) pressure washer to thoroughly wash equipment and flush all compartments that may hold water.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><a href="https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Fishing/AIS_INSPECTIOMANUAL.pdf">https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Fishing/AIS_INSPECTIOMANUAL.pdf</a></p>
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### 2.1.2 Lander Resource Management Plan

The following Table outlines goals, objectives, actions, and constraints for the Lander Resource Management Plan area. This direction applies to the **Dubois, Lander Slope, Green and Crooks Mountain, Sweetwater Valley, Rattlesnake Hills, and Copper Mountain FMUs**. For RMP maps referenced in the table [click here](#).

MISSION STATEMENTS		
Citation	Resource	Statement
Common 6	Common to all Resources	Manage vegetation, soil, landform, water quantity and quality, and air quality to maintain, meet, make substantial progress towards or exceed the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands.
PR:1	Air Quality	Minimize the impact of decisions in the planning area on air quality by complying with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and regulations.
PR:1.1	Air Quality	Within the BLM's authority, manage emissions of criteria pollutants to provide compliance with applicable state and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards.
PR:3	Soils	Prevent impairment of soil productivity from accelerated loss, physical or chemical degradation of the soil resource, or surface disturbance.
PR:3.3	Soils	Manage to minimize degradation of soils. Consider prevention of soil degradation when authorizing activities.
PR:3.4	Soils	Manage soil to achieve stability and to support the hydrologic cycle by providing for water capture, storage, and sustained release.
PR:6	Water	Maintain or improve surface water and groundwater quantity and quality consistent with applicable state and federal standards and regulations.
PR:6.1	Water	Take appropriate actions to protect all Wyoming surface water designated uses including but not limited to fisheries, aquatic life,

		drinking water supplies, recreation, and agriculture, and to control all potential causes of impairment.
PR:6.4	Water	Protect Class 1 waters (Outstanding Surface Waters) as determined by the State of Wyoming.
PR:6.5	Water	Restore, maintain, and enhance watershed, wetland, and riparian functions.
PR:6.6	Water	Protect and improve groundwater quality and quantity through appropriate measures (e.g., predictive modeling, monitoring, and protection of known water recharge areas) during BLM activities and permitted actions over the life of the plan.
PR:8	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Maintain existing wilderness characteristics associated with identified areas (outside of WSAs) found to contain wilderness characteristics.
PR:8.1	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Maintain wilderness characteristics in areas managed as non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics.
1051	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Manage the Little Red Creek Complex, including Red Creek and portions of Torrey Rim (4,954 acres [Map 3]) to protect wilderness values.
FM:1	Fire & Fuels	Protect human life, property, and communities at risk from fire, and enhance and protect the public land resources through vegetation management and the response to wildland fire.
FM:1.1	Fire & Fuels	The BLM will first provide for firefighter and public safety in every fire management activity.
FM:1.2	Fire & Fuels	Maintain partnerships with interagency cooperators to strengthen coordination of all fire suppression and fuels management activities.
FM:1.3	Fire & Fuels	Promote community assistance. Enhance the fire prevention and public education programs regarding wildland fire management and vegetation management activities.
FM:2	Fire & Fuels	Manage fire and fuels to restore or maintain natural ecosystem functions, restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce losses from landscape-level wildland fire, and protect multiple-use values.
FM:2.3	Fire & Fuels	Working with private landowners, affected partners, and local, state, tribal, and other federal agencies, identify areas for potential use of wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance resources through collaborative development of operational plans.
FM:2.4	Fire & Fuels	Restore natural fire regimes and frequency to the landscape.
FM:2.5	Fire & Fuels	Using the best available science and on-the-ground inventory, determine the existing condition class of vegetation communities and manage landscapes to improve condition class and ecological conditions described in the NRCS Ecological Site Descriptions.
3007	Fire & Fuels	Use chemical, biological, and mechanical treatments to reduce the risk of landscape-level wildfire within priority areas. Alter fuel loading and improve ecological condition of vegetation communities. Consider the presence and potential for noxious and nonnative plant species when

		designing wildland fire response and fuels treatments.
3010	Fire & Fuels	Partner with the University of Wyoming and other research entities to develop a greater understanding of the ecology and disturbance regime of sagebrush steppe, woodland, and forested vegetation communities found within the planning area. Use this information to develop a regionally specific scientific foundation for vegetation management activities.
3014	Fire & Fuels	Outside of greater sage-grouse Core Area, emphasize the reintroduction of fire into its natural role in the ecosystem in consideration of Decision Record 3016. Where possible, use wildland fire and prescribed fire to achieve management objectives, including reducing hazardous fuel loading, restoring vegetation communities, improving and/or protecting wildlife habitat, enhancing forage production, and addressing forest and woodland health issues such as pine beetle outbreaks.
BR:1	Vegetation	Manage vegetation communities to restore, maintain, or enhance vegetation community health, composition, and diversity. Provide a mix of natural succession stages that incorporate diverse structure and composition into each vegetation type.
BR:1.1	Vegetation	Maintain, improve, enhance, or restore habitat to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of native and desirable nonnative plant species.
BR:1.2	Vegetation	Maintain, improve, or enhance areas of ecological importance, priority plant species and habitats, and unique plant communities.
BR:1.3	Vegetation	Maintain, improve, or enhance sustainable forage levels for all grazing and browsing animals depending upon identified desirable vegetation communities and desired future condition.
BR:1.4	Vegetation	Utilize mechanical, chemical, and biological methods, including fire and livestock grazing, to achieve desirable vegetation communities with consideration of the area's precipitation and the potential for the introduction or the spread of invasive species and the BLM's ability to provide post-treatment monitoring and management.
BR:1.6	Vegetation	Maintain, restore, and enhance aspen, forest, woodland, and non-sagebrush shrub communities for a healthy mix of successional stages and vegetation types. Emphasize stand diversity, sustainability, and habitat value and in consideration of other resources and uses in forest and woodland communities.
BR:1.7	Vegetation	Manage vegetation communities across the landscape to improve Fire Regime Condition Class.
BR:1.8	Vegetation	Manage vegetative resources to optimize protection and recovery from drought, disease, insect infestations, and wildfire.
BR:1.9	Vegetation	Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies and stakeholders to protect and enhance the recovery of vegetative resources and other habitat components affected by dry conditions, drought, disease, severe insect infestations, noxious weeds and invasive species, and

		wildfires.
BR:2	Vegetation	Maintain, enhance, or restore forest-stand community health, composition, and diversity to an ecologically appropriate mosaic considering factors such as density, basal area, canopy cover, age class, stand health, successional stages, and understory.
BR:2.2	Vegetation	Maintain and protect characteristics and composition of mature forest and woodland communities with old-growth characteristics.
BR:2.3	Vegetation	Improve opportunities to sustainably harvest forest products in identified areas while providing for other forest values and uses. Improve forest and woodland health to protect watershed values and support wildlife habitat requirements.
4001	Vegetation	Manage forests and woodlands to improve stand diversity and sustainability. Consider other resources and resource uses while following Wyoming Silvicultural BMPs (Appendix E of RMP).
4003	Vegetation	Manage old-growth and unique forest and woodland communities, including some overstory removal as appropriate, to maintain the ecological characteristics unique to the site(s).
BR:3	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Manage for healthy native plant communities by reducing, preventing expansion of, or eliminating the occurrence of invasive nonnative species, undesirable vegetation, or noxious weeds, and predatory plant pests or disease by implementing decisions consistent with goals included in Partners Against Weeds and consistent with state and local weed management plans.
BR:3.3	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Include provisions for invasive nonnative species management in all BLM-funded or authorized actions.
BR:5	Invasive Species and Pest Management	In all parts of the planning area, manage for the reduction, prevention, and halting the expansion of cheatgrass. Emphasize the prevention of invasive annual grass and woody plants in greater sage-grouse Core Area.
4018	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Use integrated pest management including fire and mechanical/chemical treatments to control weeds. Reseed or replant as necessary to promote vegetative growth in consultation and cooperation with interested parties.
4020	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Manage weed treatments to maintain and improve greater sage-grouse habitat. Apply Required Design Features and BMPs as Conditions of Approval, such as those in Appendix E (of RMP).
BR:6	Riparian - Wetland	Maintain, enhance, or restore riparian-wetland areas to support biodiversity and provide the appropriate natural potential combination of vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to: (a) dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows or energies associated with wind and/or wave action and overland flow from adjacent sites, (b) reduce erosion and improve water quality, (c) filter sediment, (d) capture bedload, (e) allow for floodplain development, (f) improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge, (g) develop root

		masses that stabilize stream banks, islands, and shoreline features against cutting action, (h) allow for natural rates of water percolation, and (i) develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses.
BR:6.3	Riparian - Wetland	Manage all resources and resource uses to maintain, enhance, or restore riparian-wetland habitats.
BR:6.4	Riparian - Wetland	Maintain, enhance, or restore aquatic ecosystems including stream geomorphology.
4028	Riparian - Wetland	Identify riparian-wetland management actions to promote biodiversity and develop an implementation plan to incorporate actions into BLM-authorized activities. Manage riparian-wetland areas and wet meadows to achieve or maintain diverse species richness that includes a component of perennial forbs in conjunction with desirable riparian sedges, rushes, bulrushes, and grasses, as appropriate.
BR:7	Fish and Wildlife	Manage for the biological integrity and habitat function of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to sustain and optimize distribution and abundance of all native and desirable nonnative fish and wildlife species consistent with habitat capability.
BR:7.1	Fish and Wildlife	Manage habitats to support WGFD in the attainment of big game herd unit objectives, fish management objectives, and well-distributed, healthy populations of fish and wildlife species consistent with the WGFD's Strategic Habitat Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, and strategic population plans, and to achieve the stated purpose of designated Wildlife Habitat Management Areas.
BR:7.2	Fish and Wildlife	Maintain habitats sufficient to fulfill the life-cycle requirements of diverse fish and wildlife species. Manage to protect important breeding and natal or parturition habitats for terrestrial and aquatic species.
BR:7.3	Fish and Wildlife	Maintain or improve habitat integrity, continuity, connectivity and productivity for fish and wildlife on a landscape scale.
BR:7.4	Fish and Wildlife	Provide barrier-free movement and habitat protection from disturbance and fragmentation in identified wildlife migration routes and fish passages.
BR:7.6	Fish and Wildlife	Provide healthy and stable ecosystems that support fish and wildlife habitat values, appropriate species' habitat needs, and the existing species' diversity.
BR:8	Fish and Wildlife	Manage direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats such that no unnecessary or undue degradation results from BLM actions and authorized activities.
BR:8.1	Fish and Wildlife	In the absence of offsite mitigation or in areas with site-specific allowances, manage for no greater than a 10 percent net loss of acres of big game crucial winter range and parturition habitat over the life of the plan.
BR:10	Fish and	Manage for quality habitats that would support the introduction,

	Wildlife	reintroduction, and augmentation of identified high-priority fish and wildlife species on BLM-administered lands.
4033	Fish and Wildlife	Choose and implement appropriate mitigation and BMPs/Required Design Features to minimize decreases in habitat function. Mitigate impacts as near to the impact, for the same or similar impacted species or habitats, as soon as possible. In cases where impacts cannot be mitigated to an acceptable level onsite or where the BLM and WGFD agree that mitigation or additional habitat protections farther away will be of greater benefit to wildlife, consider offsite mitigation; see the latest guidance on offsite mitigation including regional mitigation. Apply the same conservation measures on split-estate lands unless, in the case of federal minerals, this would not be consistent with the surface owner's rights.
4034	Fish and Wildlife	Minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife during the life of projects through project placement and maintenance of connectivity between large contiguous blocks of undisturbed habitat in cooperation with interested stakeholders. Require seasonal restrictions or other identified mitigation as needed to minimize impacts to migratory birds and their habitats protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
4041	Fish and Wildlife	The Dubois, Red Canyon, Lander Slope, and Green Mountain ACECs, greater sage-grouse Core Area, and the Sweetwater River watershed are priorities for management of fish and wildlife and their habitat. See the <i>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</i> section for ACEC decisions. See the <i>Special Status Species – Wildlife</i> section for greater sage-grouse management.
4043	Fish and Wildlife	To protect wildlife and their habitats, reduce the footprint of surface-disturbing activities and facilities to the smallest size necessary to achieve the purpose for the disturbance without raising safety issues.
4066	Fish and Wildlife	Manage BLM-authorized activities so that the forage requirements of all grazing/browsing animals are met.
BR:11	Special Status Species	Manage for biological integrity and habitat function to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of fish, wildlife, and plant special status species.
BR:11.1	Special Status Species	Protect or enhance areas of ecological importance for special status species. Manage for no net loss of habitat for any special status species.
BR:12	Special Status Species	Provide quality habitats to support the introduction, reintroduction, and augmentation of identified high priority fish, wildlife, and plant special status species.
BR:13	Special Status Species	Maintain and/or increase greater sage-grouse abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which populations depend, in cooperation with other conservation partners. Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of greater sage-grouse and other

		species by achieving the objectives below.
BR:13.1	Special Status Species	Maintain large patches of high-quality sagebrush habitats with emphasis on patches occupied by greater sage-grouse.
BR:13.2	Special Status Species	Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on connections between habitats occupied by greater sage-grouse.
4075	Special Status Species	Implement appropriate conservation agreements, conservation measures, and BLM-endorsed management strategies for threatened, endangered, and other special status species. Comply with terms of the Statewide Programmatic Section 7 Consultations (conservation measures from the letters of concurrence, biological assessments, and biological opinions) for management of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species.
4076	Special Status Species	Develop site-specific measures for BLM-authorized activities to protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Reduce the footprint of development and facilities to the smallest practical to protect special status species and their habitat. Incorporate Required Design Features and BMPs such as those identified in Appendix E as Conditions of Approval as appropriate for authorized activities to address adverse impacts to special status species.
4078	Special Status Species	The Dubois area (Map 3) and Wyoming Governor’s greater sage-grouse Core Area (Map 24) are priorities for management of special status fish and wildlife species and their habitats.
4080	Special Status Species	Establish limits of acceptable cumulative habitat loss, including habitat modification, fragmentation, and loss of function, for special status species on a case-by-case basis. Limits of habitat loss and fragmentation for greater sage-grouse in Core Area are addressed in Decision Record 4109.
4082	Special Status Species	Apply specific measures to protect known special status plant populations from BLM-authorized activities and motorized travel on a case-by-case basis.
4098	Special Status Species	Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) in seasonal greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush-obligate species habitats unless plant removal is necessary to achieve habitat management objectives. Vegetation treatments for greater sage-grouse would follow the “Wyoming Game and Fish Department Protocols for Treating Sagebrush to be Consistent with Wyoming Executive Order 2011-5; Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection” (WGFD 2011) or the most current version or science available.
4099	Special Status Species	To minimize adverse impacts to greater sage-grouse from allowable uses, utilize recommendations and guidance from the following sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grazing Influence, Management, and Objective Development in Wyoming’s Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat-With Emphasis on Nesting and Early Brood Rearing</li> <li>● Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Guidelines for Wyoming</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Studies in Avian Biology article “Ecology and Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse: A Landscape Species and Its Habitats”</li> <li>● Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy</li> <li>● Conservation Objectives Team Report</li> <li>● National Technical Team Report</li> </ul> <p>Utilize additional information as it becomes available.</p>
HR:1	Cultural Resources	Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA, Section 103(c), 201(a) and (c); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)).
HR:2	Cultural Resources	Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses (FLPMA Section 103(c), National Historic Preservation Act 106, 110 (a)(2)) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106.
HR:2.2	Cultural Resources	Consult with Native American tribal governments regarding proposed land uses having the potential to affect cultural resources identified as having tribal interests or concerns. Determine the types of resources of concern to various tribes, and take tribal views into consideration when making land use allocations or decisions.
HR:3	Cultural Resources	Protect significant cultural resources while endeavoring to minimize economic and social impacts to private landowners and local communities.
HR:5.3	Cultural Resources	Preserve and stabilize significant cultural and paleontological resources, especially resources that face immediate threat, and/or historic structures in high public use areas.
HR:6	Cultural Resources	Preserve and protect the historical remains and historical settings of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHTs. See the <i>Congressionally Designated Trails</i> section for decisions for these resources.
HR:7	Cultural Resources	Preserve and protect the historical remains and historical settings of intact portions of the Warm Springs Canyon Flume.
HR:8	Cultural Resources	Preserve and protect the historical remains and historical settings of the South Pass Historic Mining Area and associated sites, including Miner’s Delight and South Pass City. See the <i>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</i> section for decisions for these resources.
HR:9	Cultural Resources	Preserve and protect the historical remains and historical settings of other significant trails and roads, including intact portions of the Bridger Trail; the Rawlins-Fort Washakie, the Casper-Lander, the Green River to Fort Washakie, the Point of Rocks to South Pass, and the Birdseye Pass Stage Trails; and the Yellowstone/National Park to Park

		Highways (RHT&EHs).
HR:9.2	Cultural Resources	Protect remnants, ruts, traces, graves, campsites, landmarks, artifacts, and other remains associated with the RHT&EHs.
HR:10	Cultural Resources	Preserve and protect the cultural remains and natural settings of the Cedar Ridge Traditional Cultural Property
HR:11	Cultural Resources	Preserve and protect the prehistoric remains and natural settings of the Castle Gardens Rock Art Site.
HR:13	Paleontological Resources	Locate, evaluate, manage, and protect, where appropriate, paleontological resources on BLM-administered lands.
HR:15	Paleontological Resources	Ensure that proposed land uses initiated or authorized by the BLM do not inadvertently damage or destroy important paleontological resources on BLM-administered lands.
HR:15.2	Paleontological Resources	Require surveys, monitoring, and excavation where appropriate to identify and protect important paleontological resources from surface-disturbing activities.
HR:17	Visual Resources	Maintain the overall scenic (visual) quality of BLM-administered lands.
SD:4	National Trails Management	Preserve and protect the historical remains and historical settings of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHTs and their associated historic sites for public use and enjoyment.
SD:4.2	National Trails Management	Protect remnants, ruts, traces, graves, campsites, landmarks, artifacts, and other remains associated with the NHTs to enhance historical research and public use and enjoyment.
SD:6	Wilderness Study Areas	Manage WSAs so as to not impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness.
SD:6.1	Wilderness Study Areas	Preserve wilderness characteristics in WSAs in accordance with BLM Manual 6330, <i>Management of Wilderness Study Areas</i> , until Congress either designates these lands as Wilderness or releases them for other purposes.
7031	Wilderness Study Areas	The following eight WSAs are managed in accordance with BLM Manual 6330, <i>Management of Wilderness Study Areas</i> (Map 44): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sweetwater Rocks Complex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Split Rock (13,964 acres)</li> <li>○ Lankin Dome (6,347 acres)</li> <li>○ Miller Spring (6,697 acres)</li> <li>○ Savage Peak (7,178 acres)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Sweetwater Canyon (9,135 acres)</li> <li>● Whiskey Mountain (519 acres)</li> <li>● Copper Mountain (6,936 acres)</li> <li>● Dubois Badlands (4,561 acres)</li> </ul>
SD:7	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Protect outstanding, remarkable values of eligible and suitable WSRs recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

7039	Wild and Scenic Rivers	<p>Recommend the following waterways as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (Map 45) with the tentative classification for each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baldwin Creek Unit: 8.1 miles, tentatively wild and scenic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Upper Baldwin Creek Segment: 6.96 miles, tentatively wild and scenic</li> <li>○ Lower Baldwin Creek Segment: 1.14 miles, tentatively wild</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Sweetwater River Unit: 12.88 miles, tentatively wild <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sweetwater River Segment: 8.64 miles, tentatively wild</li> <li>○ Granite Creek Segment: 1.04 miles, tentatively wild</li> <li>○ Mormon Creek Segment: 1.08 miles, tentatively wild</li> <li>○ Willow Creek Segment: 1.32 miles, tentatively wild</li> <li>○ Strawberry Creek Segment: 0.81 mile, tentatively wild</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Warm Springs Segment 1: 1.3 miles, tentatively recreational and wild</li> </ul>
SD:8	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Maintain, protect and enhance the relevant and important values for each ACEC and provide opportunities for other compatible uses where appropriate.
7056	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Develop and implement fire and fuels management in consideration of the resource(s) for which the ACEC is designated with consideration of the wildland urban interface, if present.
<b>PRE-SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
4006	Vegetation	Identify areas in which wildland fire could be implemented as a management tool to enhance forest and woodland health.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Prior to the fire season, provide greater sage-grouse training to resource advisors.
<b>SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
3001	Fire & Fuels	Utilize a full suite of wildland fire suppression tactics based on a full evaluation of the highest priority of firefighter and public safety and other factors, such as the circumstances under which a fire occurs, the threat to human infrastructure, important natural and cultural resources, and other values to be protected. Coordinate responses to wildland fire across jurisdictional boundaries. Conduct emergency stabilization and rehabilitation as needed.
3002	Fire & Fuels	Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics for wildfire suppression where appropriate, with special consideration for areas of significant cultural resources, historic trails, areas with significant wildlife habitat, biologically sensitive areas, and in areas of visual resource sensitivity unless human life or public safety is threatened.
3003	Fire & Fuels	Full suppression of wildland fire is used within the wildland urban interface and in areas of high resource values. In consideration of other resources, a full range of wildland fire suppression tactics are allowed

		throughout the planning area, including the use of unplanned ignition to achieve resource benefit.
3004	Fire & Fuels	In greater sage-grouse Core Area, prioritize suppression to conserve the habitat. Where applicable and technically feasible, apply greater sage-grouse BMPs such as those identified in Appendix E.
<b>POST-SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
PR:5	Soil Reclamation	Require successful reclamation of surface-disturbing activities to restore healthy, functioning plant communities and watershed function.
PR:5.1	Soil Reclamation	Require revegetation to stabilize surface soils, establish natural plant composition and self-perpetuating plant communities capable of supporting the post-disturbance land use.
1015	Soil Reclamation	Implement BLM National and Wyoming Reclamation Policies requiring the development of reclamation plans for all federal actions authorized, conducted, or funded by the BLM that disturb vegetation and/or the mineral/soil resources. Require that site-specific interim and final reclamation practices be developed and implemented that will meet the reclamation standards as identified in Appendix B. The type and detail of the reclamation plan will be commensurate with the extent and duration of soil disturbance. For extensive disturbance such as a full-field oil and gas development, a detailed, multi-phase plan such as the Continental Divide Creston oil and gas project reclamation plan (attached as Appendix G to the Proposed RMP and Final EIS as an example) will be required.
1017	Soil Reclamation	Require that surface-disturbing activities minimize the surface disturbance footprint to the maximum extent possible to limit the areas requiring reclamation. Limit disturbance of desirable vegetative communities established during interim reclamation when implementing final reclamation.
1018	Soil Reclamation	Require that all reclamation plans identify the desired plant community for final reclamation.
1019	Soil Reclamation	Consider wildlife habitat objectives in all final reclamation objectives. In Core Area, final reclamation objectives will be to restore greater sage-grouse habitat. Include metrics to ensure that restoration goals are met.
1020	Soil Reclamation	Require site stabilization and sediment control in compliance with Wyoming Stormwater Discharge requirements and BLM reclamation policies.
1021	Soil Reclamation	Require that during and following reclamation activities, the land user is responsible for monitoring to help ensure interim and final reclamation success as defined in reclamation policies and with the standards identified in Appendix B is achieved. Require follow-up seeding and/or other corrective or remedial erosion-control measures on areas of surface disturbance, as appropriate and, if necessary,

		protecting the reclaimed landscape until reclamation standards have been achieved. Monitoring and follow-up reclamation practices will continue on interim and final reclaimed areas until the standards identified in Appendix B have been successfully achieved.
1023	Soil Reclamation	Adapt reclamation methods to specific requirements based on plant communities within ecological sites and site-specific objectives. Incorporate reclamation objectives and require reclamation plans, including reclamation standards as identified in Appendix B on a site-specific basis.
1024	Soil Reclamation	Utilize management practices, including phased development and BMPs, to achieve reclamation success. Require Reclamation Objectives and Standards as identified in all reclamation plans.
1025	Soil Reclamation	Reclamation management practices will select native plant species based on site characteristics and ecological site descriptions. Reclamation success will be determined based on the criteria and standards identified in Appendix B.
FM:1.4	Fire & Fuels	Conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation where necessary after wildfire to address current and anticipated trends to resource values at risk.
3009	Fire & Fuels	Monitor fuels treatment and wildfire burn areas for sufficient time after treatment or fire event in order to determine short-term and long-term project success, detect weed infestations and accelerated soil erosion, and assess overall vegetation recovery. Utilize all available rehabilitation tools to control weed infestation and accelerated soil erosion. Implement post-treatment rest of treated areas from livestock grazing for two full growing seasons on all prescribed or wildland fire burn areas unless vegetation recovery dictates otherwise.
4011	Vegetation - Forest and Woodlands	Implement forest replanting after sale, vegetative treatment, or fire on a case-by-case basis if natural regeneration does not occur within a timeframe appropriate for vegetative type.
4013	Vegetation - Grassland and Shrubland	Manage for specific species and vegetative attributes (plant density, composition, cover, and diversity) using ecologically sustainable practices.
4021	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Require the use of certified noxious-weed free forage, mulch, and other land-applied products for BLM-authorized activities on BLM-administered lands.
4022	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Should invasive nonnative species become established in a location, develop and implement site-specific plans to eradicate/control invasive weeds for all surface-disturbing activities in the immediate vicinity. Priority for control will be: (1) Wyoming Declared Weed and Pest Species, (2) those weeds on the Western States Combined Declared Noxious Weed List, (3) those annual/biennial invasive weeds interfering with reclamation efforts, and (4) those invasive nonnative species interfering with a management objective.

Append E	Forestry BMPs	<b>Prescribed Burning and Wildfire Suppression:</b> Protect soil and water from prescribed burning effects by maintaining soil productivity, minimizing erosion, and preventing ash, sediments, nutrients and debris from entering surface water. After an intense wildfire or prescribed burn, emergency rehabilitation may be necessary to minimize the loss of soil, prevent the deterioration of water quality, and to mitigate threats to life and property. Stabilize all areas that have significantly increased erosion potential or drainage patterns altered by suppression activities by installing water bars and other drainage diversions in fire roads, fire lines, and other cleared areas, seeding, planting, and fertilizing to provide vegetative cover, spreading slash or mulch to protect bare soil, repairing road damage, and clearing stream channels of debris deposited by suppression activities and scarification as necessary to encourage percolation on excessively burned soils.
<b>WILDLAND FIRE RELATED OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
1004	Air Quality	Require dust abatement measures for all BLM-authorized activities. Mandate dust abatement control techniques in identified problem areas.
1008	Air Quality	Require that all BLM-authorized activities minimize adverse impacts to air quality. Allow air quality impacts up to applicable standards and guidelines.
1011	Soils	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities during periods when soil material is saturated or at times when watershed damage is likely to occur. Evaluate surface-disturbing activities during periods when soil is frozen on a site-specific project level to determine the impacts to the soil and plant resources and compare these impacts on frozen soil versus non-frozen soil.
1013	Soils	Surface-disturbing activities may be authorized with conditions of approval in areas with limited reclamation potential soils. Avoid surface-disturbing activities in areas with limited reclamation potential soils outside of DDAs whenever possible.
1014	Soils	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities on slopes greater than 25 percent (Map 7). Avoid or control surface-disturbing activities on slopes between 15 and 24 percent. Oil and gas management on slopes between 15 and 24 percent is open with CSU stipulations. ROWs authorized in Designated Corridors will require a construction and mitigation plan to prevent soil loss on slopes greater than 15 percent. See Decision Record 4009 for limits of slope related to timber harvest.
1027	Water	Require the use of BMPs and mitigation applied as Conditions of Approval to reduce point and nonpoint source pollution and to prevent groundwater contamination.
1028	Water	Control nonpoint source pollution by improving riparian-wetland health and by controlling dust, accelerated erosion, and surface

		disturbances.
1031	Water	Control sources of pollution to Class 1 waters. Collaborate with the Wyoming DEQ to prevent water quality degradation of Class 1 waters (Map 5).
1042	Water	Require measures to limit degradation of water quality, such as avoiding disturbance of soils with high erosion potential, implementing zero-runoff programs on large-scale surface-disturbing activities, requiring full bonding for site reclamation, and reclaiming abandoned surface disturbances.
1052	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Close the Little Red Creek Complex to motorized travel and limit mechanized travel to designated routes. Locate closures at strategic locations on BLM-administered lands to be added to this document in a maintenance action; motorized travel will be allowed on some roads up to the identified closure points.
3005	Fire & Fuels	Restrict the use of aerial applied fire retardant near identified rock art sites unless values at risk, such as human life and safety, require their use.
3006	Fire & Fuels	Do not aerially apply fire retardants during suppression activities within 300 feet of any waterbody. Do not apply fire retardants within 500 feet of waterways that support Yellowstone cutthroat trout, burbot, and sauger unless values at risk require the use of retardants within 500 feet from identified waterways.
3017	Fire & Fuels	Utilizing Required Design Features and BMPs applied as Conditions of Approval, establish fuels treatment projects at strategic locations to minimize the size of wildfires. Restore native or desirable plants and create landscape patterns to benefit wildlife. Power wash all fire vehicles including engines, water tenders, personnel vehicles, and OHVs after they have been in the field to help prevent the establishment or spread of invasive weeds.
4023	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Require that equipment and vehicles used for BLM-authorized activities be cleaned for seeds of noxious weeds and invasive nonnative species before moving onto BLM-administered lands. Prohibit project vehicles accessing BLM-administered lands via cross-county travel from driving through infestations during access to the site. If the area on which BLM-authorized activities take place is identified as being a high risk for invasive and/or noxious weeds, require that vehicles be cleaned before leaving the worksite and include prescriptions for the disposal of wash water.
4031	Riparian - Wetland	In DDAs, prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water, riparian-wetland areas, and playas unless on a site-specific basis a lesser distance is shown to provide equivalent protection (Map 4).  Outside of DDAs, prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water, riparian-wetland areas, and playas unless activities

		are determined to be necessary and when impacts can be mitigated (Map 4).
4049	Fish and Wildlife	Design, locate, and, where feasible, modify road crossings of streams to minimize impacts to fish populations and habitat.
4051	Fish and Wildlife	Avoid the movement of water from one 4th level hydrologic unit code drainage to another 4th level hydrologic unit code drainage to prevent aquatic invasive species and disease transfer.
4052	Fish and Wildlife	If equipment has been used in an area known to contain aquatic invasive species, the equipment will need to be inspected by an authorized aquatic invasive species inspector certified in the State of Wyoming prior to use in any water in the planning area. If aquatic invasive species are found, the equipment will need to be decontaminated in accordance with Wyoming Statutes.
4055	Fish and Wildlife	On a case-by-case basis, authorize actions that deplete water from fish-bearing streams, unless the loss or reduction of a sustainable fish population would result. Existing projects that affect the sustainability of fish populations will be modified or removed on a case-by-case basis.
4056	Fish and Wildlife	Outside of DDAs, wildlife seasonal protections for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities apply to maintenance and operations actions when the activity is determined to be detrimental to wildlife (see Appendix F). Reclamation of surface disturbance will be in accordance with Appendix B for non-DDAs.
4057	Fish and Wildlife	For the protection of reptiles and their habitat, prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 200 feet of identified hibernacula (den) sites.
4061	Fish and Wildlife	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within identified big game crucial winter range (Maps 18-22) from November 15 to April 30 and within identified big game parturition areas (Maps 18-22) from May 1 to June 30 unless an exception, waiver, or modification is granted by the Authorized Officer. Authorize exceptions for reclamation seeding when appropriate.
4071	Fish and Wildlife	<p>Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within 3/4 mile of active raptor nests, except ferruginous hawk nests for which surface-disturbing and disruptive activities are prohibited within 1 mile, during the following time periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● February 1 to July 31 for all raptors except northern goshawk and burrowing owl</li> <li>● April 1 to August 31 for northern goshawk</li> <li>● April 1 to September 15 for burrowing owl</li> </ul> <p>Distances and dates may vary based on raptor species, chick fledging, topography, and other pertinent factors.</p> <p>See Decision Record 4093 for management of bald eagle nests.</p>

4085	Special Status Species	Provide information to fire personnel to prevent fire suppression vehicles from staging in and driving over special status species plant populations. Where possible, special status species plant populations will be avoided for suppression activities such as bulldozer lines, helipads, and camps. Fire suppression activities in desert yellowhead populations will be prohibited unless approval, in coordination with USFWS, is granted (See Appendix N for Map 26 from RMP).
4087	Special Status Species	Avoid activities that contribute sediment to waterbodies that support Yellowstone cutthroat trout, burbot, and sauger unless determined that additional sediment will not harm species or adequate mitigations can be applied.
4088	Special Status Species	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 200 feet of occupied pygmy rabbit habitat.
4092	Special Status Species	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in occupied white-tailed prairie dog colonies where possible.
4093	Special Status Species	Implement conservation measures, terms and conditions, appropriate BMPs, Required Design Features and reasonable and prudent measures within existing state programmatic biological opinions for the bald eagle. Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities are prohibited within 1 mile of a bald eagle nest from February 1 to August 15.
4094	Special Status Species	To protect mountain plover habitat, including a ¼-mile buffer, prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities from April 10 to July 10 unless surveys indicate the absence of breeding/nesting mountain plovers.
4095	Special Status Species	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within ¼ mile of identified bat maternity roosts and hibernation areas that would adversely impact bats and their habitat.
4104	Special Status Species	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities or surface occupancy on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks in Core Area and on or within a 0.25-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks outside Core Area (Map 24). In Core Area, keep any new roads or road upgrades 1.9 miles from the perimeter of the lek.
4105	Special Status Species	Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 in Core Area. Outside of Core Area, prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 within 2 miles of the perimeter of occupied leks (Map 24).  Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.
4107	Special Status Species	Prohibit disruptive activities between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. from March 1 to May 15 on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks in Core Area (Map 24).

4117	Special Status Species	Limit noise sources to 10 decibels with an A-weighted scale above natural ambient noise measured at the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks from March 1 to May 15, unless scientific findings indicate a different noise level is appropriate. In addition, limit noise sources in other important greater sage-grouse habitats if research and/or policy indicate the need.
5002	Cultural Resources	Protect and manage sacred, spiritual, and/or Traditional Cultural Properties as they are identified.
5004	Cultural Resources	Protect and manage sites that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (some of which are displayed on Map 28). Manage sites allocated for conservation, traditional use, or public use to avoid adverse effects; manage sites allocated for scientific or experimental use for their research potential. Protect and manage National Historic Landscapes, National Historic Trails, and National Natural Landmarks through management of non-compatible uses.
5007	Cultural Resources	Consult with tribes when specific projects may have the potential to adversely affect resources important to them. Consider tribal views when uses threaten these sites and protect tribally important sites, areas, and resources whenever possible.
5010	Cultural Resources	Allow BLM-authorized activities to proceed in accordance with RMP decisions and the current Wyoming State Protocol and National Historic Preservation Act regulations.  For cultural resources that are significant because of their information potential, require avoidance whenever possible. If avoidance is not possible, require the recovery of scientific data if an activity would cause adverse effects. For cultural resources significant for reasons other than information potential, require avoidance whenever possible; if avoidance is not possible, require detailed documentation.
5011	Cultural Resources	Conduct inventories for cultural resources prior to all surface-disturbing activities, subject to appropriate exceptions as provided in the Wyoming State Protocol.
5054	Paleontological Resources	Allow standard development and BLM-authorized activities to proceed in accordance with resource protections identified in regulations and guidelines and in accordance with standard paleontological stipulations.  For significant paleontological resources, require the recovery of scientific data if an activity would cause adverse effects. As resources such as dinosaur tracks are identified that would be useful for public interpretation, pursue funding to allow visitation and interpretation.
5066	Visual Resources	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within important scenic areas (VRM Classes I and II). Grant exceptions if the project applicant can demonstrate through a BLM approved visual simulation and contrast rating worksheet (from all key observation points within the area) that

		the project or identified mitigation will meet or exceed VRM Class I or II objectives. This restriction does not apply to temporary structures such as drilling rigs.
5069	Visual Resources	<p>Surface-disturbing activities within VRM Classes III and IV that cannot be seen from the Congressionally Designated Trails will be evaluated based on the VRM class designation at the site of the surface disturbance.</p> <p>Surface-disturbing activities out of scale with the surrounding landscape that are within view of the Congressionally Designated Trails will be evaluated based on VRM Class II standards.</p> <p>To protect visual resource values, areas south of the Green Mountain ACEC are closed to wind-energy development.</p>
6027	Trails and Travel Management	<p>Cross-country motorized travel in all areas with limited and closed travel management designations (Map 35) is prohibited except with the following exceptions and supplementary stipulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BLM authorization to exercise valid existing rights</li> <li>● For emergency and other purposes as authorized under 43 CFR 8340.0-5(a)(2), (3), (4) and (5)</li> <li>● Any non-amphibious registered motorboat</li> <li>● Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes</li> <li>● Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Authorized Officer, or otherwise officially approved</li> <li>● Vehicles in official use</li> <li>● Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies</li> </ul> <p>Authorizations or permits that include motorized vehicle activities shall address the use of motorized vehicles as part of the authorization or permit. Authorized motorized vehicle activities will require NEPA analysis and other environmental compliance actions and should be compatible with the RMP goals and objectives. Any motorized vehicle use associated with applying for an authorization or permit is subject to the regulations and policies related to the particular application process. See decisions above for additional information regarding use authorizations.</p>
6039	Trails and Travel Management	The Dubois Badlands WSA (4,561 acres) is closed to motorized vehicles (Map 35).
7036	Wilderness Study Areas	<p>The following WSAs are closed to motorized travel (Map 44):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dubois Badlands</li> <li>● Copper Mountain</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Whiskey Mountain</li> </ul> <p>In the following WSAs motorized travel is limited to designated routes and trails that existed and were identified before or during the inventory phase of the wilderness review. Travel systems and linear features in conflict with wilderness values will be modified (mitigated or closed) through implementation planning (Map 44).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sweetwater Rocks Complex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Split Rock (13,964 acres)</li> <li>○ Lankin Dome (6,347 acres)</li> <li>○ Miller Spring (6,697 acres)</li> <li>○ Savage Peak (7,178 acres)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Sweetwater Canyon</li> </ul>
7043	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Any ground and air operations utilized in fire suppression activities on BLM-administered lands within 0.25 mile on either side of suitable waterways will utilize Minimal Impact Suppression Tactics. Aerially applied fire retardants are not allowed within 300 feet of suitable waterways. Evaluate any fire rehabilitation plans to determine whether they comply with the interim management for the 0.25-mile buffer.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Develop site-specific greater sage-grouse reference information and resource materials containing maps, a list of resource advisors, contact information, local guidance, and other relevant information. Provide localized maps to dispatch offices and extended attack incident commanders for use in prioritizing wildfire suppression resources and designing suppression tactics. Involve state wildlife agency expertise in fire operations through: instructing resource advisors during preseason trainings; qualification as resource advisors; coordination with resource advisors during fire incidents; and contributing to incident planning with information such as habitat features or other key data useful in fire decision making. The BLM has collected wildfire data considered to be reliable since 1960. Although perimeter mapping was not instituted until recently, acreage estimations were made and linked to a point or polygon on a map. Using Geographic Information System analysis cross linking the acres with the points or the actual mapped locations where available, the BLM determined that a <i>total</i> of 25,000 acres in Core Area were burned by wildfire, less than 0.15 percent of Core Area.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	During periods of multiple fires, ensure line officers are involved in setting priorities.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Locate wildfire suppression facilities (i.e., base camps, spike camps, drop points, staging areas, and heli-bases) in areas where physical disturbance to greater sage-grouse habitat can be minimized. These

		include disturbed areas, grasslands, near roads/trails, or in other areas where there is existing disturbance or minimal sagebrush cover.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Where applicable, utilize retardant and mechanized equipment to minimize burned acreage in Core Area during an extended attack. Utilize retardant, mechanized equipment, and other available resources to minimize burned acreage during initial attack.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	As safety allows, conduct mop-up where the black adjoins unburned islands, dog legs, or other habitat features to minimize sagebrush loss.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Minimize burnout operations in Core Area or near a lek outside of Core Area (with input from the resource adviser) by constructing direct fireline whenever safe and practical to do so.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Minimize unnecessary cross-country vehicle travel during fire operations in greater sage-grouse habitat.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Adequately document fire operation activities in greater sage-grouse habitat for potential follow-up coordination activities.
Append E	GRSG Required Design Features for Fire	Power-wash all firefighting vehicles, to the extent possible, including engines, water tenders, personnel vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles prior to deploying in or near greater sage-grouse habitat areas to minimize spread of invasive plants.

### 2.1.3 Worland Resource Management Plan

The following Table outlines goals, objectives, actions, and constraints for the Worland Resource Management Plan area. This direction applies to portions of the **Absaroka Front, Foothills Sagebrush, Basin Bottom, and West Slope Bighorn FMUs** that are within the Worland Field Office and all of the **Nowater FMU**. For RMP maps referenced in the table [click here](#).

MISSION STATEMENTS		
Citation	Resource	Statement
PR:1	Air Quality	Minimize the impact of management actions in the planning area on air quality by complying with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and regulations.
PR:2	Air Quality	Improve air quality in the planning area as practicable.
PR:2.1	Air Quality	Reduce visibility-impairing pollutants in accordance with the reasonable progress goals and time-frames established within the State of Wyoming's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan.
PR:2.2	Air Quality	Reduce atmospheric deposition pollutants to levels below generally accepted levels of concern and levels of acceptable change.
1005	Air Quality	The State of Wyoming has primary responsibility (primacy) for administering and enforcing air quality standards and regulations within the state.

		BLM actions will conform with Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Standards and Regulations through application of BMPs and other measures consistent with resource goals and objectives.
PR:3	Soils	Maintain or improve soil health (e.g., chemical, physical, and biotic properties) while focusing on making significant progress toward meeting the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997).
PR:3.1	Soils	Apply guidelines and appropriate measures to all management actions (including reclamation) affecting soil health to decrease erosion and sedimentation, to achieve and maintain stability, and to support the hydrologic cycle by providing for water capture, storage, and release.
PR:4	Water	Maintain the quality of surface water and groundwater resources, maintain compliance with applicable federal and state water quality standards, and improve water quality where practical within the scope of the BLM's authority.
PR:4.3	Water	Manage watersheds to prevent accelerated channel erosion and undesirable adjustments in channel geometry (e.g., width-depth ratio, sinuosity, bank stability, gradient) of stream channels within the authority of the BLM.
PR:4.6	Water	Manage pollutants on federal lands to minimize threats to drinking water sources.
PR:6	Cave & Karst	Conserve significant cave and karst resources and enhance educational and scientific research opportunities relative to cave and karst resources in the planning area.
PR:6.1	Cave & Karst	Manage significant cave resources as mandated by the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.
FM:1	Fire & Fuels	The protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.
FM:1.1	Fire & Fuels	Maintain partnerships with the public and interagency cooperators to strengthen coordination of all fire management activities and encourage the creation of fire safe communities.
FM:1.2	Fire & Fuels	Enhance the wildland fire public education prevention program regarding wildland fire.
FM:1.3	Fire & Fuels	Manage fuels to restore and maintain landscapes, and promote fire-adapted communities and infrastructure. Fire and fuels management actions will focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies, and accomplishing DPC objectives.
FM:1.4	Fire & Fuels	Utilize fire management strategies and tactics that are appropriate for

		the values at risk while also minimizing impacts on resource values.
FM:1.5	Fire & Fuels	<p>Following wildland fires, conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation when and where needed. In priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas, prioritize suppression immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat.</p> <p>In general Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.</p>
FM:1.6	Fire & Fuels	Management of fire and fuels will be as consistent as possible with approved local fire plans in coordination with counties, cooperators, and stakeholders.
FM:2	Fire & Fuels	Restore natural fire regimes and frequencies to the landscape, and utilize fire and vegetation treatments to accomplish DPC objectives.
FM:2.2	Fire & Fuels	Implement and maintain a FMP for the planning area; the FMP identifies the site-specific fire management practices and fuels treatment actions needed to meet this RMP's goals and objectives and includes a focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies or accomplishing DPC objectives.
3015	Fire & Fuels	Utilize wildland fires (wildfires managed for resource benefit and prescribed fires) and other vegetation treatments to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce hazardous fuels, and accomplish resource management objectives.
BR:1	Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products	Maintain, enhance, or restore forest stand community health, composition, and diversity taking into account density, basal area, canopy cover, age class, stand health, and understory components.
BR:1.1	Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products	Maintain overall forest health by managing forest and woodland stands for endemic populations of native insects and disease.
4022	Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products	Use logging, timbering, or wildland fire when appropriate to revitalize decadent stands and improve stand density.
BR:2	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Manage vegetation resources to meet DPC objectives.
BR:2.1	Vegetation –	Manage native plant communities to restore, maintain, or enhance

	Grassland and Shrubland Communities	vegetation community health, composition, and diversity to provide a mix of successional stages that incorporate diverse structure and composition into the desired vegetation types.
BR:2.2	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Maintain, improve, enhance, or restore native plant communities to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of native and desirable nonnative plant species and wildlife habitat.
BR:2.3	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Maintain, improve, or enhance areas of ecological importance, priority plant species and habitats, and unique plant associations with native plant communities.
BR:2.4	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Manage native plant communities across landscapes through cooperation with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders.
BR:2.5	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, and stakeholders to protect and recover native plant communities, and their included vegetative resources and habitat components affected by extreme environmental conditions.
BR:2.6	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	In PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain all lands ecologically capable of producing sagebrush (but no less than 70 percent) with a minimum of 15 percent sagebrush cover or as consistent with specific ecological site conditions. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Technical Reference 1734-6 [BLM 2005c]).
4030	Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities	Manage to maintain contiguous blocks of native plant communities and minimize fragmentation; allow for appropriate mosaic of interrelated plant communities while allowing for other resource uses.
BR:3	Vegetation – Riparian/Wetland Resources	Manage riparian/wetland areas to provide a natural combination of vegetation and landform to provide the habitat and the water conditions necessary for aquatic and terrestrial species.
BR:4	Invasive Species and Pest Management	Manage for healthy native plant communities by reducing, preventing expansion of, or eliminating the occurrence of undesirable invasive, nonnative species, undesirable, nonnative, or noxious weeds (predatory plant pests or disease) by implementing management actions consistent with national guidance and state and local weed management plans.
4046	Invasive Species and Pest	Cooperate and coordinate with appropriate government agencies, private industry, and other interested stakeholders in public education,

	Management	research, management, and control of aquatic invasive species.
BR:5	Fish and Wildlife Resources	In compliance with the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (BLM 1997), manage for the biological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to sustain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat, while providing for multiple uses of BLM-administered lands.
BR:5.1	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Manage habitat to conserve, recover, and maintain fish and wildlife consistent with appropriate local, state, and federal management plans.
BR:6	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Manage environmental risks and associated impacts in a manner compatible with sustaining plant, fish, and wildlife populations.
BR:6.1	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Minimize, avoid, and mitigate impacts of environmental risks on fish and wildlife.
4058	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of <i>The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management</i> (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002) and the <i>Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities</i> (Appendix F, <i>Wyoming Bureau of Land Management Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities</i> ), BMPs (Appendix C, <i>Required Design Features and Best Management Practices</i> ), and similar guidance updated over time.
BR:7	Special Status Species	WILDLIFE - Manage for the biological integrity and habitat functionality to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of fish and wildlife to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.
BR:7.1	Special Status Species	Maintain or enhance areas of ecological importance for special status wildlife species.
BR:8	Special Status Species	PLANTS – Manage for the biological integrity and habitat function to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of BLM special status plant species and to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.
BR:8.2	Special Status Species	Protect or enhance habitat for BLM special status plant species.
BR:9	Special Status Species	GREATER SAGE-GROUSE – Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of Greater Sage-Grouse and other species by achieving the objectives below.
BR:9.1	Special Status Species	Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on patches occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.

BR:9.2	Special Status Species	Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on connections between habitats occupied by Greater Sage-Grouse.
HR:1	Cultural Resources	Identify, preserve, and protect cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA, Section 103(c), 201(a) and (c); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)).
HR:1.2	Cultural Resources	Reduce imminent threats to cultural resources from natural or human-caused deterioration.
HR:2.3	Cultural Resources	Coordinate with other BLM programs preplanning measures to prevent potential conflicts before they occur.
HR:3	Cultural Resources	Protect important cultural resources while minimizing economic and social impacts to private landowners and local communities.
HR:3.3	Cultural Resources	Preserve and stabilize important cultural resources, especially resources that face immediate threat or are in high public use areas.
5006	Cultural Resources	Appropriately protect sites listed on the NRHP. Protect and manage sites that are eligible for or listed on the NRHP. Manage sites allocated for conservation, traditional use, or public use to avoid adverse effects; manage sites allocated for scientific or experimental use for their research potential. Protect and manage National Historic Landmarks through management of non-compatible uses.
HR:4	Paleontological Resources	Manage, preserve, and protect paleontological resources and areas on BLM-administered land in the planning area.
HR:4.1	Paleontological Resources	Reduce threats to paleontological resources from natural or human-caused deterioration.
LR:4	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management	Utilize a comprehensive approach to travel planning and management to sustain and enhance use.
LR:4.1	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management	All BLM-administered lands will be classified as open, limited, or closed to motorized travel in consideration of other resource program goals and objectives, primary travelers, objectives for allowing travel in the area, setting (recreation, visual, archeological) characteristics that are to be maintained, and primary means of travel.
SD:1	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	Protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or process, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.
SD:1.1	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of	Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs within appropriate geographical areas.

	Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	
SD:3	Regionally Important Prehistoric and Historic Trails	Manage Historic Trails for long-term heritage and educational values and to enhance the public experience.
SD:3.2	Regionally Important Prehistoric and Historic Trails	Maintain setting for those contributing trail segments where setting is an aspect of integrity by utilizing viewshed management tools.
<b>PRE-SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
3007	Fire & Fuels	Maintain and implement an FMP consistent with this RMP to address fire management on a landscape scale. Under the appropriate environmental conditions the use of unplanned ignitions for resource benefit and prescribed fire to meet resource management objectives is allowed in the entire planning area.
4102	Special Status Species	Annually maintain FMPs to incorporate updated sagebrush habitat information as well as fire suppression priorities in sagebrush habitats. Incorporate fire management objectives for the management of sagebrush ecosystems into FMPs. Provide fire management objectives for sagebrush ecosystems to initial attack personnel at the beginning of each fire season.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Compile district-level information into state-wide Greater Sage-Grouse tool boxes. Tool boxes will contain maps, listing of resource advisors, contact information, local guidance, and other relevant information for each district, which will be aggregated into a state-wide document.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Provide localized maps to dispatch offices and extended attack incident commanders for use in prioritizing wildfire suppression resources and designing suppression tactics.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	On critical fire weather days, pre-position additional fire suppression resources to optimize a quick and efficient response in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Reduce the risk of vehicle or human-caused wildfires and the spread of invasive species into Greater Sage-Grouse habitats could be minimized by planting perennial vegetation (e.g., green-strips) paralleling road ROWs (this BMP could be applied to BLM linear ROW authorizations).

<b>SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
3003	Fire & Fuels	Base the response to wildfires consistent with objectives and the cost/benefits of the resources at risk. For Wildland Fire Management, the protection of human life is the single, overriding priority. Setting priorities among protecting human communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources will be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.
3008	Fire & Fuels	<p>Suppress fires threatening Greater Sage-Grouse habitats and crucial winter wildlife habitat within Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Where fire would be utilized to meet resource objectives, work closely with resource specialists to protect and improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.</p> <p>For fuels management, the BLM would consider multiple tools for fuels reduction and would analyze in NEPA compliance documentation before electing to implement prescribed fire in PHMAs.</p> <p>If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options;</li> <li>● how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use;</li> <li>● how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; and</li> <li>● a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized.</li> </ul> <p>Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMAs (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities).</p> <p>Prescribed fire in known crucial winter wildlife habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the</p>

		four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in and/or around crucial winter wildlife habitat must be strategically-designed to reduce wildfire risk and protect winter range habitat quality.
3014	Fire & Fuels	Response to wildland fire may vary from full suppression in areas where fire is undesirable, to monitoring fire behavior in areas where fire can be used as a management tool.
4101	Special Status Species	Conduct fire management activities to minimize overall wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush plant communities where Greater Sage-Grouse habitat objectives are at risk. General priorities for habitat protection: Priority # 1 – Protection of Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs. Priority # 2 – Wyoming big sagebrush communities outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs and habitats recovering from disturbance within or adjacent to Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Assign a resource advisor with Greater Sage-Grouse expertise, or who has access to Greater Sage-Grouse expertise, to all extended attack fires in or near Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas. Prior to the fire season, provide training to Greater Sage-Grouse resource advisors on wildfire suppression organization, objectives, tactics, and procedures to develop a cadre of qualified individuals.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	As appropriate, utilize existing fuel breaks, such as roads or discrete changes in fuel type, as control lines in order to minimize fire spread.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	During periods of multiple fires, ensure line officers are involved in setting priorities.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Utilize retardant, mechanized equipment, and other available resources to minimize burned acreage during initial attack.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	As safety allows, conduct mop-up where the black adjoins unburned islands, dog legs, or other habitat features to minimize sagebrush loss.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse	Adequately document fire operation activities in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat for potential follow-up coordination activities.

	Conservation	
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Use fire prescriptions that minimize undesirable effects on vegetation or soils (e.g., minimize mortality of desirable perennial plant species and reduce risk of hydrophobicity).
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Where applicable, incorporate roads and natural fuel breaks into fuel break design.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Protect wildland areas from wildfire originating on private lands, infrastructure corridors, and recreational areas.
<b>POST-SUPPRESSION</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
3002	Fire & Fuels	Implement the BLM Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation standards located in the BLM Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook (BLM 2007b).
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Restore prior perennial grass/shrub plant communities infested with nonnative invasive species to a species composition characterized by perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs as outlined in ESDs.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Emphasize the use of native plant species, recognizing that nonnative species may be necessary depending on the availability of native seed and prevailing site conditions.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Design post Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation and Burned Area Emergency Response management to ensure long term persistence of seeded or pre-burn native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing, wild horse and burro, and travel management, etc., to achieve and maintain the desired condition of Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation and Burned Area Emergency Response projects to benefit Greater Sage-Grouse. Include Greater Sage-Grouse habitat parameters as defined by Connelly et al., Hagen et al., or if available, State Sage-Grouse Conservation plans and appropriate local information in habitat restoration objectives. Make maintaining these objectives within priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas a high restoration priority.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Make re-establishment of sagebrush and desirable understory plant cover (relative to ecological site potential) a high priority for restoration efforts. Write specific vegetation objectives to reestablish Greater Sage-Grouse cover and desirable understory cover.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Give priority for implementing specific Greater Sage-Grouse habitat restoration projects in areas infested with undesirable annual grasses first to sites which are adjacent to or surrounded by Greater Sage-Grouse key habitats. Areas infested with undesirable annual grasses are second priority for restoration when the sites not adjacent to key habitat, but within two miles of key habitat. The third priority for areas infested with undesirable annual grasses habitat restoration projects are sites beyond two miles of key habitat. The intent is to focus restoration

		outward from existing, intact habitat.
Append C.3	Fire and Fuels Management BMPs	Emphasize the use of native plant species, recognizing that nonnative species may be necessary depending on the availability of native seed and prevailing site conditions.
<b>WILDLAND FIRE RELATED OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS</b>		
<b>Citation</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Statement</b>
1007	Soils	Use BMPs to reduce runoff, soil erosion, and sediment yield, and to retain water on the landscape.
1010	Soils	Allow surface-disturbing activities on fragile soils, biological crusts, soils with low reclamation potential, and soils with highly erosive characteristics on a case-by-case basis.
1026	Water	Avoid aerial application of fire suppressant chemicals within 300 feet of perennial waters. Consider ground-based application on a case-by-case basis.
1027	Water	Protect watershed resources through the application of watershed conservation practices and BMPs.
1042	Water	Avoid activities that could negatively affect water resources within a ¼ mile area around public water supply wells, and an area including ¼ mile on both sides of a river or stream, for 10 miles upstream of the public water supply intake, within the watershed. For lakes and reservoirs, this would include a ¼ mile area around the waterbody. For unavoidable activities in these areas, site specific mitigation will be included to minimize risk of adverse impacts.
1048	Cave & Karst	Accomplish cave resource protection and provide for user safety with controls such as timing of use to avoid crowding and closing caves to use during periods of high water runoff. Close cave and karst areas during all critical periods for bats and when user safety is at risk due to high water, radon, H2S, and fire.
3004	Fire & Fuels	Restrict or prohibit the use of fire retardant chemicals as appropriate to protect rock art. Avoid aerial application of fire suppressant chemicals within 300 feet of perennial waters. Consider ground-based application on a case-by-case basis.
3005	Fire & Fuels	Prohibit the use of bulldozers in areas of important cultural resources or historic trails for fire suppression unless an archeologist and/or resource advisor is present.
3006	Fire & Fuels	Assign an archeologist to all fires with heavy equipment employed beyond Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (see Glossary) to assist in determinations of appropriate suppression strategies.
3009	Fire & Fuels	Protect facilities or habitable structures from fire.
3011	Fire & Fuels	In cooperation with the WGFD, identify waters that contain high-risk

		aquatic invasive species. Avoid using these identified water sources for suppression activities except in cases where public and firefighter safety are threatened.
3012	Fire & Fuels	Clean (i.e., disinfect) fire-fighting equipment where water sources containing high-risk aquatic invasive species must be utilized.
4035	Vegetation – Riparian/Wetland Resources	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water and riparian/wetland areas (39,801 acres) except when such activities are necessary and when their impacts can be mitigated.
4053	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Apply an NSO restriction and prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet and apply a CSU and avoid surface-disturbing activities within ¼ mile of any waters rated by the WGFD as Blue Ribbon or Red Ribbon (trout streams of national or statewide importance).
4060	Fish and Wildlife Resources	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in the Bighorn River HMP/RAMP tracts and apply an NSO restriction as appropriate. Exceptions include casual use and uses related to the development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat, including vegetation treatments.
4106	Special Status Species	<p>Inside PHMAs</p> <p>Prohibit surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks. The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of Greater Sage-Grouse (Map 3-17).</p> <p>Outside PHMAs</p> <p>Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a ¼-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks (Map 3-17).</p> <p>Outside Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs, the BLM’s goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the Greater Sage-Grouse population to facilitate movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states.</p>
4107	Special Status Species	<p>Inside PHMAs</p> <p>Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (81,281 acres).</p>

		<p>Outside PHMAs Prohibit disruptive activities on or within a ¼ mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (3,157 acres).</p> <p>Inside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities from March 15 to June 30 to protect Greater Sage-Grouse breeding, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitat (1,021,583 acres). Apply this timing limitation throughout the PHMAs. Activities in unsuitable habitats would be evaluated under the exception and modification criteria and could be allowed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Outside PHMAs Prohibit surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in Greater Sage-Grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied Greater Sage-Grouse leks from March 15 to June 30. Note: Where credible data support different timeframes for these seasonal restrictions, dates may be expanded by up to 14 days prior to or subsequent to the above dates.</p>
4112	Special Status Species	In PHMAs, implement mitigation and minimization guidelines and required design features, including specific measures for Greater Sage-Grouse (refer to Appendix C, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices) as applicable and consistent with EO 2015-4 (Wyoming Office of the Governor 2015). Incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership.
4138	Special Status Species	Allow the application of fire suppression chemicals within ¼ mile of known/documented populations of BLM special status plant species with the consent of the authorized officer.
5018	Cultural Resources	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas containing important cultural and paleontological resources.
5025	Cultural Resources	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails, except where other resources impose more restrictive conditions, on BLM-administered land along the Bighorn Slope, Bridger, Owl Creek, and Absaroka Foothills to manage (minimize issues such as looting) for cultural and paleontological resources.
5027	Paleontological	Protect vertebrate and scientifically significant paleontological resources

	Resources	on BLM-administered land from proposed surface-disturbing activities that could damage or destroy these resources.
5028	Paleontological Resources	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in areas in the immediate vicinity of scientifically significant paleontological resource sites.
5029	Paleontological Resources	Avoid adverse effects on resource values to sites listed in National Park Service inventories of possible National Natural Landmarks.
5034	Paleontological Resources	Close or restrict uses upon discovery of vertebrate or scientifically significant paleontological resources on a case-by-case basis.
5040	Paleontological Resources	Within 100 feet of a paleontological discovery, prohibit the resumption of activity until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer.
5041	Paleontological Resources	Allow surface-disturbing activities within at least 100 feet of the outer edge of the paleontological locality if the impacts can be adequately mitigated.
6035	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management	Motorized travel use is allowed throughout the planning area for emergency and administrative use, through other authorities, and maintenance and operations as authorized by permit on case-by-case basis.
7019	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	Prohibit the use of heavy equipment to construct fire lines and the use of chemical and dye retardants in the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC.
7032	SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	Limit or prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Upper Owl Creek ACEC to protect fragile soils, alpine tundra, important wildlife habitat, and scenic values.
7042	Regionally Important Prehistoric and Historic Trails	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and protect the foreground of Historic Trails (defined in Glossary) up to 2 miles or the visual horizon within contributing portions of the trail whichever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the trail. The 2-mile buffer would also apply to areas unevaluated until it is determined that setting is not an important aspect of the integrity of the trail. Use BMPs (Appendix C, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects, except within designated utility corridors.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-	To the extent possible, locate wildfire suppression facilities (i.e., base camps, spike camps, drop points, staging areas, heli-bases, etc.) in areas

	Grouse Conservation	where physical disturbance to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat can be minimized. These include disturbed areas, grasslands, near roads/trails or in other areas where there is existing disturbance or minimal sagebrush cover.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Power-wash all firefighting vehicles, to the extent possible, including engines, water tenders, personnel vehicles, and ATVs prior to deploying in or near Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas to minimize noxious weed spread.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Minimize unnecessary cross-country vehicle travel during fire operations in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.
Append C.3	Fire Operations BMPs for Sage-Grouse Conservation	Minimize burnout operations in key Greater Sage-Grouse habitat areas by constructing direct fireline whenever safe and practical to do so.
Append C.3	Decontamination Procedure for Aquatic Invasive Species	<p>To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department recommends following the guidelines outlined in the Aquatic Invasive Species in Wyoming brochure (link below). Specific BMPs to aquatic invasive species spread prevention include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decontamination should first occur before arrival at a project site, so aquatic invasive species are not transferred from the last visited area. Decontamination should occur again before leaving a project site, so aquatic invasive species are not transferred to the next site.</li> <li>● Decontamination may consist of either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drain all water from equipment and compartments, clean equipment of all mud, plants, debris, or animals, and dry equipment for five days in summer (June, July, and August); 18 days in spring (March, April, and May) and fall (September, October, and November); or three days in winter (December, January, and February) when temperatures are at or below freezing,</li> <li>-or-</li> <li>2. Use a high pressure (2,500 pounds per square inch [psi]) hot water (140°F) pressure washer to thoroughly wash equipment and flush all compartments that may hold water.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><a href="https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Fishing/AIS_INSPECTI_ONMANUAL.pdf">https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Fishing/AIS_INSPECTI_ONMANUAL.pdf</a></p>

## **3. WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE**

### **3.1 Preparedness**

Wildfire response is based on a cooperative effort between the BLM, USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, the county fire services, and the Wyoming State Forestry Division. There are mutual aid agreements with the county fire services and the Federal Agencies to streamline initial attack and reduce duplication efforts.

#### **3.1.1 Operational Plans**

The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District updates its Operational Plans annually. The following are district specific plans that are associated with Fire Management in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District.

- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Aviation Plan
- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Standard Operating Guidelines
- Greybull SEAT Base Operating Plan
- Riverton SEAT Base Operating Plan
- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Duty Officer Guide
- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Initial Attack Plan
- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Fire Prevention Plan
- Cody Interagency Dispatch Zone Fire Danger Operating Plan
- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Serious Injury or Fatality Response Guide
  - Cody Dispatch Zone Aviation Mishap Response Guide
- Cody Interagency Dispatch Center Annual Operating Plan
- State of Wyoming, Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement
- Wyoming State Forestry District 2 North Annual Operating Plan (Natrona County)
- Wyoming State Forestry District 2 South Annual Operating Plan (Carbon County)
- Wyoming State Forestry District 3 Annual Operating Plan (Fremont, Hot Springs, Washakie, Bighorn, and Park Counties)
- Wyoming State Forestry District 4 Annual Operating Plan (Sweetwater County)
- Colorado/Wyoming Fire Trespass Operating Plan
- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Fire Restriction Plan
- Big Horn Basin Crew Annual Operating Plan
- Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Incident Qualification Card Review “Redcard” And Training Committee Charter

### **3.2 Management of Wildfires**

#### **3.2.1 Dispatch**

Initial attack suppression resources (engines, crews, aircraft, etc.) are assigned at the time of detection. The closest available resources are utilized to minimize incident response times. Agreements are in place with cooperators, and operating plans are updated annually to ensure multi-jurisdictional coordination. The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District fire program resources are dispatched through the

Cody Interagency Dispatch Center. The dispatch center is responsible for coordinating the acquisition of resources requested by an Incident Commander (IC). An IC will place all resource orders through this center, specifying what is needed, when it is needed by, and where it is to be delivered. Dispatch can determine from the location of the fire if that particular area falls within any management constraints and works with Fire Management personnel to relay such information back to the IC. Additional firefighters and equipment will be ordered through the local, geographic, or national mobilization process. Communication of incident status, resource needs, weather conditions, and logistical needs will continue between the dispatch center and the IC throughout the duration of the incident.

### **3.2.2 Initial Attack**

All fires within the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District will be managed according to pre-established dispatch protocols that are in conformance with the resource management objectives laid out in this FMP. All initial attack is conducted under the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Initial Attack Plan.

A qualified IC will be responsible for the management of each wildfire incident. The IC will implement strategies and tactics in a manner that provides for the safety of firefighters, and the public as a top priority. Protection of human life will always be the overriding priority. Protection of property, natural resources, and critical and sensitive habitats from adverse effects of wildfire are also high priority management objectives. Prioritizations of suppression strategies are contingent on the aforementioned values at risk. Incident commanders will need to consider the following when responding to wildfires: resource availability, fire location, suppression costs, current and predicted fire weather, fuels condition, drought, and other variables that will influence firefighter and public safety. An IC is responsible for completing the following tasks in the performance of their duties:

1. Providing an incident size-up to dispatch.
2. Determining resource needs.
3. Assessing safety concerns and mitigate hazards and risks.
4. Utilizing FMP guidance in determining management objectives, and the tactics required to meet objectives.
5. Ensuring the Duty Officer is informed and updated on the fire situation.
6. Managing all aspects of the incident until the fire is suppressed; or, the IC is relieved by another qualified Incident Commander.

Wildland Fire Decisions Support System (WFDSS) is a web-based system that assists fire managers and analysts in making strategic and tactical decisions for wildfire incidents. WFDSS integrates various applications used to manage incidents into a single system, which streamlines the analysis and reporting processes. The application gives decision makers maximum flexibility in defining a course of action and subsequent strategic and tactical actions based on planning documents, incident specific analysis, and risk assessment. Information about every wildfire may be displayed in the WFDSS, however most of these fires will be initial attack fires that do not require publishing a decision in WFDSS. However, if the complexity of the fire increases then the fire may require a published WFDSS decision. The WFDSS will

be used to identify future management actions if a wildfire cannot be controlled by initial attack forces.

Refer to the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Initial Attack Plan referred to in 3.1 for guidance on utilization of incident management teams during periods of extended attack, multiple starts, and large fire situations. A qualified Agency Administrator is responsible for coordinating with fire management personnel in the development of WFSS decisions. An Agency Administrator must provide clear oversight to incoming IMTs to ensure incident objectives comply with RMP and FMP objectives and constraints.

### **3.2.3 Fire Use**

The Cody, Lander, and Worland RMPs all allow for management of natural, unplanned ignitions. While this is an allowable use there are no areas within the district that have compliance with further site-specific NEPA to allow for management of natural, unplanned ignitions. Until further planning and NEPA is implemented suppression tactics will be used to manage all wildland fires.

## **3.3 Fuels Treatments**

The hazardous fuels and vegetation management program in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District includes most facets of vegetation management. The program partners with participating local and county governments, stakeholder groups, private landowners, and adjoining BLM districts in the completion of fuels projects. Federal partners are directly involved in joint projects, while state entities generally provide cost sharing or funding opportunities and assistance with public outreach on cooperative projects. Fuels projects have and will continue to focus on reducing risk from catastrophic wildfire, Wildland Urban Interface, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, and important big game habitat. These focus areas are typically identified through Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) ratings, improvement of rangeland health as identified in the Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Wyoming (1997), and proposals from cooperators.

The WRBBD Fuels Management Program utilizes Prescribed Fire, Mechanical, Chemical, and Biological treatments to help achieve resource management objectives in both the WUI and the Non-WUI. These treatments are management tools used to maintain or increase age class diversity within vegetation communities, restore fire adapted ecosystems, maintain or increase vegetation productivity, nutrient content and palatability, maintain or improve wildlife habitat, and improve rangeland and watershed condition. These treatments are also management tools for the reduction of hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface to reduce the threat of wildfire in and around structures and communities.

Mechanical treatments include mowing sagebrush, grinding and hand cutting juniper to reduce encroachment into Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, removing conifers to enhance aspen communities and other treatments involving the use of machinery as opposed to fire or chemical applications.

Prescribed fire includes broadcast burning over large areas in a mosaic pattern, pile and slash burning from mechanical treatments and individual burning of invasive conifers on rangeland sites. Though treated acres vary by year, fire-treated acres have generally declined in recent years. Concerns about cheatgrass presence and Greater Sage-Grouse habitat have decreased the feasibility of using this tool in some areas.

Chemical applications were historically limited to the areas where species such as tamarisk and Russian olive were present, and focused on herbicide application to re-sprouts after mechanical treatment. Recently, new chemicals approved for use on BLM surface ownership has allowed expansion of the chemical program to include cheatgrass treatments at a larger scale.

Biological treatments, such as targeted grazing, have recently been utilized to reduce fuel loading and to increase desirable vegetation productivity in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District. Also, biological agents such as bacteria are being tested on cheatgrass at select sites throughout the planning area. This tool will become increasingly important as other treatment alternatives are determined to be inappropriate due to concerns from adverse impacts.

National fire policy (FA IM 2016-019) requires current and desired resource conditions related to fire and fuels management to be described utilizing vegetation departure, fire regime departure, desired structural stages, resilience, hazard/risk, and invasive species. The Fire Regime Condition Classification (FRCC) System is another tool that has been used to describe wildland fire conditions. This system measures the vegetation's degree of departure from reference conditions or how different current vegetation is from a particular reference condition. Classification indicators ranges from 1 to 3 with 1 being fire regimes that are within historical ranges and 3 being significantly altered from historical range. A coarse scale landscape level assessment of condition class for the planning area based on University of Wyoming GAP data (1994), ground truthing, and expert input, was conducted in 2007. Based on this assessment it was estimated that approximately 90% of vegetation communities within the planning area are in Condition Class 2 and 3. One of the goals within the Fuels Program of the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District is to improve Fire Regime Condition Class across the district.

Fuels treatment focal areas within the district include the West Slope of the Bighorn Mountains, the Bighorn River corridor including its communities, the Absaroka Front FMU, Copper Mountain FMU, Green and Crooks Mountain FMU, Lander Slope FMU, Dubois FMU, and the South Pass area. These areas are where the highest percentage of vegetation treatments is occurring currently. Also of significant importance are Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Management Areas which are identified and can be found within each of the previously mentioned fuels treatment focal areas.

The fuels program is involved with Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) throughout the district. All counties and some individual communities within the district are covered under existing plans; this

includes Park, Bighorn, Hot Springs, Washakie, Fremont, Sweetwater, and Carbon Counties. The Lander Field Office is heavily involved with the Wind River Fire Prevention Council. This group has been very active in the Union Pass area conducting several treatments within the surrounding communities over the past several years. In 2016 these treatments were tested during the Lava Mountain Fire. Several treatment areas were intersected by the fire and burned; however, no structures were lost due to the treatments reducing fire intensity and behavior.

The fuels program relies heavily on partnerships for funding projects and cooperation for landscape level treatments. These partnerships include Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource's Trust, Local Sage Grouse Working Groups, The Bighorn and Shoshone National Forests, local grazing permittees, Wild Sheep Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, all local county Weed and Pest districts, Wyoming State Lands, Private Landowners, local fire departments, and others.

Other disciplines within the BLM play a key role in the success of the hazardous fuels program. Interdisciplinary planning and implementation include Range, Cultural Resources, Wildlife, Forestry, and the Invasive Species programs. Continuous coordination is required to ensure specific resource management objectives as well as hazardous fuels objectives are met for each treatment.

### **3.4 Post Fire Response – Emergency Stabilization (ES)/Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAR)**

The BLM is required to initiate Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) actions after a wildfire occurs if deemed necessary by agency personnel and planned actions are within BLM ES and BAR policy. These actions determine the need to prescribe and implement treatments to minimize threats to life or property or to stabilize and prevent further unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources resulting from the effects of a fire. Natural recovery is preferable, but managers regularly assist in returning ecosystems back to their pre-fire condition. This is especially true in GRSG habitat that has been adversely impacted by fire; or, where intact GRSG habitat should be retained, protected, and improved. Post-fire mitigations also extend to other cultural and natural resources. Timber, soils, wildlife, rangelands, and hydrological resources can be impaired as a result of wildfire. See the Post-Fire section of Chapter 2 for objectives, and actions/constraints associated with restoring post-wildfire ecosystems. Successful rehabilitation will result in increased species diversity and a more stable ecosystem. If rehabilitation of burned areas is not successful, noxious weeds could invade, decreasing sensitive species habitat.

For a better description of BLM ES and BAR policy, please see Departmental [Manual 620 DM 3](#) and BLM ESR [Handbook H-1742-1](#).

For the BLM, three types of plans exist to plan these actions:

1. Programmatic ESR Plans (PESRP) (formerly Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plans)

2. ES Plans
3. BAR Plans

The ES and BAR plans are completed in response to fires that occur within a given fire season and are usually combined into a single document.

The PESRP is a programmatic ESR plan, with an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is developed at the landscape level prior to wildfire occurrence. The PESRP contains a description of ESR treatments that would be implemented under normal conditions in the event of a wildfire and documentation of the potential treatment impacts. A PESRP should be prepared on a landscape basis at the District or Field Office level by an interdisciplinary team with public input. By addressing techniques and species that may be used, the process of developing the site specific plans will be made considerably easier. Because the PESRP is analyzed through the NEPA process, procedures for public review and comment will also apply, thus ensuring ample opportunity has been given to those that are interested to be involved in the process of developing the plan. The decision to prepare a PESRP is based on the size and diversity of the ecosystems involved, fire history (wildfire occurrence and size), resource values, and values-at-risk. State Directors may require that PESRPs be prepared for all or part of the public lands within their jurisdiction and have approval authority for PESRPs that cannot be re-delegated.

Currently there are no PESRPs for the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District. ES and BAR plans in the district are completed on a case-by-case basis as deemed necessary by the agency administrator and resource specialist on their staff.

### **3.5 Air Quality/Smoke Management**

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (Wyoming DEQ) is the agency responsible for air quality in Wyoming. To date, an air quality permit is required for prescribed fires. This permit is obtained from DEQ by application. Applications require information on the location, size, fuel type, and date(s), along with smoke modeling information. Once DEQ receives this information they assign a smoke ID number, and depending on the size of the project and or anticipated overall emissions produced, either a SMP level 1 or 2 designation is assigned. All projects meeting the SMP 2 designation require a post burn report, and monitoring to be submitted.

The federal Clean Air Act established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards to protect public health. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality is given the authority to protect public health and welfare by the Wyoming Legislature through the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act. Under this act, the Wyoming Legislature has declared the prevention, reduction and elimination of air pollution, and Wyoming's control over its air as two express purposes of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, under its Air Quality Division. Fire emissions are a known contributor to air quality impacts, and the WDEQ-AQD is the central smoke management authority for Wyoming in the reduction and mitigation of these impacts. For unplanned fire events, the party responsible for

compliance is the jurisdictional fire authority that is responsible for the unplanned fire event.

In July 1999, the EPA issued the Regional Haze Rule to improve visibility in 156 national parks and wilderness areas across the country. The Regional Haze Rule outlines the requirements for states and tribes to address regional haze in these mandatory federal Class I areas. Class I areas, for the purposes of the Wyoming Smoke Management Program and Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations Chapter 10, Section 4, include all mandatory federal Class I areas and the Savage Run Wilderness Area, a state Class I area. Wyoming's mandatory federal Class I areas are Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, and the Bridger, Fitzpatrick, North Absaroka, Teton, and Washakie Wilderness Areas.

### 3.6 Data Sources, Reports and Systems

- Fire Reporting
  - [BLM MS-9218](#), Reports and Statistics Manual, provides BLM policy on completing the Individual Fire Report for unplanned ignitions.
  - [FA-IM-2016-036](#) issued the [Fire Reporting User Guide](#), which provides detailed guidance for completing Individual Fire Reports.
- Wildfire Decision Documentation
  - BLM requires documentation of wildfire decisions. Systems and/or methods for this documentation are outlined in the annual updated Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book).
- Records Management
  - [BLM Manual 1220, Records and Information Management, Appendix 2 GRS/BLM Combined Records Schedule](#) contains requirements for documentation in the fire program (e.g., fire reports and wildfire decisions). The Combined Records Schedule also indicates whether a record may be stored only in electronic format or if a hardcopy record is required.
- BLM GIS Data Standards
  - BLM has established GIS Data Standards for the Fire Management Planning Areas, wildfire perimeters, and for fuels/vegetation treatments. Information about these standards can be found at the [BLM National Data Standards Home](#) under Established Data Standards and Datasets.
- Fuels Management Projects
  - [BLM H-9214-1](#), Fuels Management and Community Assistance Handbook, provides BLM policy for annual and out-year planning of treatments and activities as well as accomplishment tracking.
- ES/BAR Project Planning
  - Direction for BLM ES/BAR project planning, budgeting and accomplishment reporting is provided in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the Wildland Fire Program.
- Wyoming Aquatic Invasive Species
  - This resource provides information about how to recognize aquatic invasive species and

how to avoid introducing them or spreading them through Wyoming's waters. The website contains links to external resources including a link to waterbodies in the United States currently known to be impacted by zebra and quagga mussels. The website also contains information about how to decontaminate equipment and watercraft suspected of harboring aquatic invasive species. <http://gf.state.wy.us/fish/AIS/index.asp>

- Wyoming Aquatic Invasive Species Fire Equipment Inspection and Decontamination Manual.  
[https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Fishing/AIS\\_FIREEQUIPMENT.pdf](https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Fishing/AIS_FIREEQUIPMENT.pdf)
- Best Management Practices
  - *Fire Operations and Fuels Management BMPs: Sage-Grouse Conservation in Fire Operations and Fuels Management* (Instruction Memorandum 2013–128) or subsequent guidance provides BMPs for fire operations and fuels management for greater sage-grouse conservation. Recommendations from this guidance should be evaluated and applied as appropriate to BLM fire operations and fuels management.

## **4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **4.1 Monitoring the Fire Management Plan**

The FMP annual review is completed to determine if the FMP needs maintenance or a full update. The FMP maintenance may be completed and documented as part of the annual review process and records kept in office files. Any substantial update requirements found during the review will require a full update to the FMP – which requires transitioning to the most recent template and obtaining new signatures on the front page of the FMP. The front page of the FMP should only be updated with new signatures and a new approval date when a full FMP update is completed; FMP maintenance does not require new signatures on the front page.

FMP Name: \_\_\_\_\_

FMP Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire Management Plan Annual Review Checklist:**

	Yes	No
1. Did landscape characteristics (including Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat) change in any area to the degree that decisions guiding fire management from the LUP or subsequent NEPA would no longer be valid?		
2. Did changes in policies or values at risk alter fire management objectives, priorities, or mitigation measures to the degree that decisions guiding fire management from the LUP or subsequent NEPA would no longer be valid?		
3. Did Land Use Plan (LUP) guidance (such as through LUP revisions) change in a way that would alter FMP strategies or priorities?		

If all items above have been checked as “no”, describe maintenance completed since last review:

*Text below FOR EXAMPLE, replace with actual maintenance to FMP since last review:*

- Updated Maps to reflect changes made to boundaries such as wildlife habitats
- Updated Partnership/Agreement area boundaries
- Replaced the reference to the Fire Danger Operating Plan with the updated plan

If any items above have been checked as “yes” a full plan update and publication of a new FMP is required. Describe actions planned to update the FMP:

*Text below FOR EXAMPLE, replace with actual maintenance to FMP since last review:*

- Due to recent loss of sagebrush and incursion of invasive annual grasses, we have scheduled a LUP amendment to update fire management direction and priorities.
- Due to recent national policy changes that conflict with existing local fire management objectives, we have scheduled the initiation of an environmental assessment to evaluate the effects of different fire management alternatives that would be consistent with the new policy.
- Due to a recent LUP amendment/revision previous FMP strategies and priorities have changed and we will update the FMP by [insert date] to incorporate new direction.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME, FMO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME, District Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date