
***Proposed Resource Management Plan and
Final Environmental Impact Statement***

Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision Project

Appendix O

Recreation Management

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APPENDIX O

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

1.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

This appendix displays the details of the management action prescriptions for each of the alternatives (B, C, D, E, and F). Alternative A prescriptions are described in Chapter 2 of the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Recreation management in the Bighorn Basin Planning Area is separated into two types of recreation management units; Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA), and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA). These units are delineated and managed accordingly to the desired recreational setting character conditions, activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes. Data collected to arrive at allocating these areas as separate recreation management areas were from intensive public outreach including formal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public scoping meetings, on the ground visitor surveys, field monitoring and observations, and work with stakeholders such as tourism entities and industries, Special Recreation Permit (SRP) permittees, and others who rely heavily on BLM-administered public lands.

SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation. SRMAs are managed to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and desired recreation setting characteristics. SRMAs may be divided into recreation management zones (RMZ) to further delineate specific recreation opportunities. Recreation Management is prescribed and implemented at the RMZ level. For example; the Badlands SRMA is further divided into three RMZs; one managed for recreational touring activities and associated experiences and benefits; one managed to enhance back-country types of activities and associated experiences and benefits; and one managed for primitive activities, experiences, and benefits. Not all SRMAs within the Planning Area are divided into RMZs because of the commonality of desired settings, activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes. Canyon Creek SRMA and Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA are such examples. Within an SRMA, recreation and visitor services management is recognized as the predominant land use planning focus, where specific recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are managed and protected on a long-term basis.

ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or recreation and visitor services program investments. Management objectives under an ERMA are to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. Management of ERMA areas is commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses. While generally unnecessary, ERMAs may be subdivided into recreation management zones (RMZ) to ensure recreation and visitor services are managed commensurate with the management of other resources and resource uses.

Public lands that are not designated a Recreation Management Area (SRMA or ERMA) are managed to meet basic recreation and visitor services and resource stewardship needs. Recreation is not emphasized, however recreation activities may occur except on those lands closed to public use. The recreation and visitor services are managed to allow recreation uses that are not in conflict with the primary uses of these lands. Management actions and allowable use decisions will still be necessary to address visitor health and safety, use user conflicts, the type(s), activities and locations where special

recreation permits would be issued or not issued, and mitigation of recreation impacts on cultural and natural resources.

Recreational activities are popular within the Planning Area for both residents and non-residents. Popular recreational activities include but are not limited to camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, rock hounding, spelunking, floating and rafting, cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, driving for pleasure, all-terrain vehicle (ATV)/four-wheel drive touring, motocross and endurance sports, mountain biking, target shooting, and sightseeing. A spike in recreational use on BLM-administered public lands is observed during the summer months, and especially during the big game hunting season, which attracts most of the recreational users, not just within the region, but visitors from outside of Wyoming.

Recreational uses inherently contain conflicting uses which compromises health and safety, user conflicts, goal interference, un-realization of desired experiences and beneficial outcomes, and ultimately natural resource damage. Allocating, or dividing the Planning Area into sub-recreational units, based off of desired settings, activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes will aid in appropriate recreational marketing, niche-matching, diminish user conflicts, and ultimately an appreciation of the recreational resources which fosters resource protection.

Recreation and visitor services scoping meetings were conducted throughout the Planning Area, resulting in a stand-alone Recreation and Travel Management review report. The BLM will use this land use planning process to gather additional data to support managing areas as either an SRMA or an ERMA, and to further identify the desired recreation settings character conditions, activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes. Recreation management designation or prescriptions may be modified if deemed necessary as a result of public comments.

The *Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision Project Summary of the Recreation and Travel Management Workshops* reports may be viewed under the Documents Library at:
<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn/docs.html>.

The following recreational matrix further details the allocation of recreation management based on desired settings, activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes. Because the criteria currently being used as guidance for allocating recreational management into SRMAs and ERMAs did not exist at the time of the last Land Use Plans, the following recreational matrix does not include recreation sub-units for Alternative A.

However, there are seven areas currently designated as SRMAs within the Planning Area. The Cody Field Office manages the Worland Caves, Historic Trails, and The Rivers SRMAs and part of the Bighorn River and West Slope SRMAs. The Worland Field Office manages the Absaroka Mountain Foothills and Badlands SRMAs and part of the Bighorn River and West Slope SRMAs. The Cody Resource Area Land Use Plan (November, 1990), the Grass Creek Resource Area Land Use Plan (September, 1998), and the Washakie Resource Area Land Use Plan (September, 1988) designated these areas to be managed as SRMAs because of the unique recreational niches, recreational setting characters, opportunities and activities, and popularity.

ALTERNATIVES B AND E

<p>Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>This SRMA is necessary to accommodate semi-primitive to middle country recreational experiences in a recreational resource rich environment. The Absaroka Mountain Foothills area is a very popular destination for both local residents and out-or-region visitors. The area is abundant in a wide variety of wildlife including grizzly bears, major access into the Shoshone National Forest and the Washakie Wilderness, and dramatic scenery.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the Absaroka Mountain Foothills as a destination SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that they realize a “moderate” level of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Wildlife viewing, nature viewing, hiking, hunting.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. Learning more about things here.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Improved mental well-being and physical fitness and health maintenance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><u>Physical</u> <u>Remoteness:</u> Back Country. Implement/maintain road closures to maintain back country settings.</p> <p><u>Naturalness:</u> Back Country. Manage for back country and middle country settings where natural setting</p> <p><u>Social</u> <u>Contacts and Group size:</u> Back Country.</p>

Appendix O – Recreation

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small. May have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Allow for primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails to exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes. Horse and hiking trailheads will be constructed at major key access points.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle/Front Country.

Main access roads are crowned and ditched gravel roads accessed by 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use. Roads within the LU Sheep Company area are closed, but available for public access during hunting season. Trails for non-motorized use will be constructed so as to access public lands.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails, and seasonal closures within the LU Sheep Company area.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the LU Ranch cooperative agreement.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Develop trailheads for foot and horse travel. Potential locations will include the Blue Creek Trail, and sites along the North and South forks of the Owl Creek and Rock Creek areas. Additional sites may be identified throughout the life of the plan.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I within Owl Creek WSA, Class II for the remainder of SRMA.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) limited to designated roads and trails.

Close Owl Creek WSA to motorized and mechanized use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO stipulation will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Maintain cooperative agreement with Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Game and Fish, and LU Sheep Company.

Partners:

Surrounding private land owners, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

Pack goats are prohibited.

Badlands SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Tour de Badlands RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This RMZ is contained within the Badlands SRMA, which is popular for motorized touring to explore the scenic desert basin. Natural recreational resources within the SRMA contain wildlife, open spaces, wild horses, and an erratic landscape which offers outstanding scenic quality.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ for motorized recreationists to engage in motorized sightseeing touring, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Middle Country and Front Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Driving for pleasure, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, sightseeing.</p> <p>Experiences: Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Enjoy having access to close-to-home outdoor amenities. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved mental well-being. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country/Front Country. On or near 4-wheeled drive and improved roads. Maintain main access roads through the area for 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive access into the Badlands area.</p> <p>Naturalness: Middle Country. Natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations but would not draw the attention of the observers on trails and primitive roads within the area.</p>

Facilities and Structures:

Front Country.

Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Front Country.

2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use. On site controls and services present but subtle.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

On site controls and services present but subtle. Signs present at key access points. Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM monitoring presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, wildlife, and wild horses resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the wild horse program, and surrounding WSAs.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Maintain a strong sign program so as to keep the access routes within the RMZ well marked.

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop one or more scenic interpretive sites and driving loops for motorized and mechanized travel in the Tour de Badlands area within the Badlands SRMA to highlight the area's scenic values. These could involve the Fifteenmile Creek and Dorsey Creek roads and The Murphy Draw Road with overlooks at the Painted Canyon of Elk Creek and at Bobcat Draw.

Identify routes to close and reclaim, construct new routes, and identify routes to remain open.

Develop trailheads for ATV unloading stations.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Additional sites may be identified throughout the life of the plan.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the RMZ.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Tour de Badlands RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Private landowners, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, IMBA, community ATV organizations, and other clubs/organizations.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

Badlands SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Wild Badlands RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This RMZ is within the Badlands SRMA. This RMZ is rich in natural recreational resources such as erratic and dramatic landscapes, management to maintain the primitive to semi-primitive setting characteristics, wilderness characteristics, three WSAs, wildlife, and wild horses which caters to primitive and semi-primitive recreational experiences.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the Wild Badlands RMZ exclusively for non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, sightseeing.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Closer relationship with the natural world. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p><u>Remoteness:</u> Back Country. Maintain road closures to maintain back country settings.</p> <p><u>Naturalness:</u> Back Country. Manage the natural setting so that they may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p><u>Facilities and Structures:</u> Primitive and Back Country. Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are extremely rare and</p>

developed only in occasions where necessary to protect the back country settings.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Manage for a season average of fewer than 6 encounters/day on and off travel routes.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Primitive.

Non-motorized and non-mechanized (foot and horseback) travel only.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services present at key access points, but subtle.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM monitoring presence during hunting season.

Minimum amount of BLM facilitating outputs necessary to achieve planning objectives.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop educational signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, geology, and wilderness.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with WSAs, access points, information regarding the wilderness program, and outdoor ethics messages such as Leave No Trace!

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Identify routes to close and reclaim. Modify identified routes into non-motorized and non-mechanized trails.

Develop primitive trailheads at key access points.

Install kiosks and signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Signs present at key access points, but very limited within the RMZ.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Closed to motorized and non-mechanized travel.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Minerals, Oil and Gas Leasing, and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Mineral uses, Oil and Gas and Geothermal leasing, exploration, and development will be guided by the Interim

Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Including, but not limited to: Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Sierra Club, Wyoming Wilderness Association.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

Badlands SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Tatman Mountain RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This RMZ is within the Badlands SRMA. Much like the Wild Badlands RMZ, this RMZ is rich in natural recreational resources such as erratic and dramatic landscapes, dominant mountainous environment, and current management to maintain the primitive to semi-primitive setting characteristics, wildlife, and wild horses which caters to primitive and semi-primitive recreational experiences. The RMZ is located to the west of Sheep Mountain WSA and provides for exceptional wildlife resource opportunities, access, motorized and primitive forms of touring, and high scenic quality.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Tatman Mountain RMZ for non-motorized recreationists to engage in muscle-powered activities such as hiking, hunting, mountain biking, and horseback riding so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back country to Middle country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Hiking, hunting, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, sightseeing.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p>Benefits: Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Closer relationship with the natural world. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country. Manage the natural setting so that they may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p>

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are extremely rare and developed only in occasions where necessary to protect the back country settings.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Manage for a season average of fewer than 6 encounters/day on and off travel routes. In issuing SRPs, allow for a group size less than 5 participants.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back/Middle Country.

Middle country for the access routes acting as main portals into the RMZ. Manage for back country settings (non-motorized travel) outside of those corridors.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back/Middle Country.

On site controls and services present at key access points, but subtle.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM monitoring presence during hunting season.

Minimum amount of BLM facilitating outputs necessary to achieve planning objectives.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop educational signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, geology, wild horses, and wilderness characteristics.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated routes and trails, key access points, private lands, and outdoor ethics messages such as Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace!

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Identify routes to maintain as open to motorized use. Reclaim routes identified as closed. Maintain open routes so as to sustain motorized use. Modify identified closed routes into non-motorized and mechanized trails for muscle-powered recreational activities.

Develop primitive trailheads at key access points.

Install kiosks and signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Signs present at key access points, but very limited within the RMZ.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Minerals, Oil and Gas Leasing, and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Pursue withdrawal from all forms of appropriation under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing, location, and sale and closed to leasing within the Tatman Mountain RMZ.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Including, but not limited to: Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Sierra Club, Wyoming Wilderness Association.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>West Slope SRMA – Cody Field Office</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The west slope of the Bighorn mountains attracts visitors from the surrounding communities and from outside the region due to the spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, and exposed geologic formations. Nearby attractions which also draw visitors to the area include the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Medicine Wheel on the Bighorn National Forest. Also, some visitors traveling to or from Yellowstone National Park spend time in the area. The SRMA includes the Little Mountain, Five Springs, and Brown/Howe Dinosaur Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), several creeks found eligible for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River system, and significant cave and karst resources. The Five Springs Falls Campground and the Cottonwood Creek Trailhead are BLM-managed sites within the SRMA. The west slope of the Bighorns provides important wildlife habitat and access into the Bighorn National Forest. These resources provide for excellent semi-primitive non-motorized recreation to motorized (touring) recreation.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hunting, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, fishing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back, Middle, and Front Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, photography, sightseeing, driving for pleasure.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Developing skills and abilities. Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoying the closeness of family.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved mental well-being and physical fitness and health maintenance. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country. Maintain Middle Country settings on much of the SRMA where lands are on or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p>

Back Country.

Maintain back country settings where lands are more than 0.5 mile from any road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight.

Naturalness:

Back Country and Middle Country where natural setting may have subtle to moderately dominant modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area and primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist.

Facilities and Structures:

Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

Maintain Middle Country settings where 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use are acceptable.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, and camp sites.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads, campgrounds, and parking areas.

Do not develop a recreation site at Rainbow Canyon.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I within wild segments of several creeks eligible for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System, Class II

for the remainder of the SRMA.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Prohibit surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>West Slope SRMA – Worland Field Office</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>Paint Rock RMZ</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>This RMZ is contained within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA. The Paint Rock RMZ attracts visitors from the surrounding communities to outside the region. The Medicine Lodge State Park attracts many visitors who enjoy exploring the slope of the Bighorns. Such resources include the Medicine Lodge WSA, Paint Rock Canyon, the Hyattville Logging Road, the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Backcountry Byway, prominent wildlife habitat management areas, abundant wildlife and fishing, and access into the Bighorn National Forest. These resources provide for excellent semi-primitive non-motorized recreation to motorized (touring) recreation.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Paint Rock RMZ as a zone within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Wildlife viewing, fishing, nature viewing, hiking, photography, sightseeing, hunting.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Developing skills and abilities. Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoying the closeness of family.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved mental well-being and physical fitness and health maintenance. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle/Back Country. On land surrounding the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway, Cold Springs Road, and the Black Butte road, maintain middle country settings on or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight. Maintain back country settings within the WSA.</p> <p>Naturalness: Middle/Back Country. Natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area and primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Maintain primitive</p>

naturalness settings for the WSA where lands are essentially an unmodified natural environment. Evidence of humans is unnoticed by an observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Primitive and Back Country.

Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes. Maintain primitive settings in the WSA where trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are extremely rare.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle/Back Country.

Maintain Middle country settings along the Cold Springs Road, Black Butte Road, and the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway where 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use are acceptable.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle/Back Country.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails outside WSA. Within the Medicine Lodge WSA, motorized and mechanized use is prohibited.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway, Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Area, and the Medicine Lodge WSA.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Develop new and maintain trailheads for foot and horse travel. Potential locations will include the Wapiti Ridge Trail, Lone Tree Trail and trailhead, Black Butte, and along the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway. Additional sites may be identified throughout the life of the plan.

Upgrade access route to the Lone Tree trailhead and upgrade the Lone Tree Trail.

Develop hiking trails in the Wet and Dry Medicine Lodge Canyons.

Maintain the off-highway vehicle (OHV) route between the Medicine Lodge State Park and Cold Springs Road.

Designate motorized touring loops connecting with the Bighorn National Forest, the Trapper Creek RMZ, and the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ, which may include new construction.

Develop campgrounds if needed.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I within the Medicine Lodge WSA, Class II for the remainder of SRMA.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Close Medicine Lodge WSA to motorized and mechanized use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Paint Rock RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Maintain cooperative agreement with Wyoming State Land Board, and Wyoming State Game and Fish.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

West Slope SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Trapper Creek RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This RMZ contains natural recreational resources which support recreational activities including hunting, sightseeing, and fishing. This areas contains the Trapper Creek WSA, two waterway segments identified as eligible and suitable for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System, Spanish Point ACEC, significant cave and karst resources, the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Backcountry Byway, the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite and the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC, and highly rated scenic quality. This area attracts visitors from within and outside the region to enjoy the resources in these semi-primitive setting to a middle country settings.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
Objective Statement: Manage the Trapper Creek RMZ as a zone within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country, Middle Country, and Front Country settings.
Activities: Hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, hiking, sightseeing, photography.
Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Enjoying the closeness of family.
Benefits: Improved mental well-being. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<u>Physical</u> Remoteness: Front/Back Country. On land surrounding the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway, maintain front country settings on or near improved county roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway. Maintain back country settings within the Trapper Creek and Alkali

Creek WSAs where lands are more than 0.5 mile from any road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight.

Naturalness:

Back Country/Primitive.

Manage for a Back Country setting where natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Maintain primitive naturalness settings for the WSAs where lands are essentially an unmodified natural environment. Evidence of humans is unnoticed by an observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Front Country/Primitive.

For lands within the Back Country Byway, maintain the front country settings where primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.

Maintain primitive settings in the WSAs where trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are extremely rare.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Middle Country/Back Country/Primitive.

For lands along the Byway, maintain middle country settings where usually 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 15-29 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small to moderate.

Manage for back country settings for remainder of SRMA not including WSAs. Manage for 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Manage for primitive settings for WSAs. Usually fewer than 3 encounters/day at campsites and fewer than 6 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small in relation to surrounding areas.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Front Country/Primitive.

Maintain front country settings along the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway where 2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized are appropriate.

Manage for primitive settings for the WSAs where there is no mechanized or motorized travel whatsoever.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle/Back Country.

Manage for middle country settings where on site controls and services are present but subtle.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails outside WSAs. Within the Trapper and Alkali Creek WSAs, motorized and mechanized use is prohibited.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway, Trapper Creek and Alkali Creek WSAs, the Madison Recharge zone, and caving ethics.

Maintain the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Develop new and maintain trailheads for foot and horse travel. Potential locations will include the Webber Canyon area, White Creek, and Black Mountain areas. Additional sites may be identified throughout the life of the plan.

Construct trailheads to accommodate mountain bike users.

Construct pull-offs along the Red Gulch/Alkali Road.

Back Country Byway.

Designate motorized touring loops within the Trapper Creek RMZ, as well as connecting with the Paint Rock RMZ, and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I within the Trapper Creek and Alkali Creek WSAs, and the White Creek and Trapper Creek WSRs. Class II for the remainder of SRMA.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Close WSAs and Spanish Point Karst ACEC to motorized and mechanized use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, and camping.

Consider acquiring areas such as Horse Mountain, Trapper Creek, and White Creek.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Trapper Creek RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –
SRP required.

Agreements:

Maintain cooperative agreements with the Big Horn National Forest.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, IMBA, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>West Slope SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>This area exhibits exceptional scenic quality, wildlife resources, and exposed geologic formations. The Hyattville Logging Road is within this area and is proposed to be a backcountry byway for Alternative B. The Logging Road is a popular access point into the Bighorn Mountains. Two other routes, the North and South Brokenback Roads act as very popular access points into the RMZ, as well as the Bighorn National Forest, especially during the big game hunting seasons. Access into this area is in part due to a coordinated agreement between the Wyoming Game and Fish and surrounding private land holders, as well as a foot/horse trail developed by the BLM so as to access more of this area. This area is a very popular hunting area for both local and visiting hunters.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u></p> <p>Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ as a zone within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>Hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, driving for pleasure.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u></p> <p>Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoying the closeness of family.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u></p> <p>Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Stronger ties with my family and friends. Greater awareness that the Bighorn Basin is special. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country Settings. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight. Front Country settings along the Hyattville Logging Road. On or near improved country roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country Settings. Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Front Country settings for lands along the South and North Brokenback Roads, and along the Hyattville Logging Road. Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are back country settings where they are rare and isolated. Remainder of RMZ is Middle Country. Primitive motorized and non-motorized trails may exist.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country. Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Middle Country. 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Back Country. On site controls and services present but subtle. Minimum amount necessary to achieve planning objectives. Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Information and Education</u></p> <p>Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources. Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character. Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Hyattville/Logging Road Back Country Byway, Carter Access area, and Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Habitat Management Areas. Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Monitoring</u></p> <p>Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation. Visitor reports of crowding. Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow. If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.</p>

Management

Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services for the following areas:

- Trailheads for North and South Brokenback areas, Laddie Creek, and the Hyatteville Logging Road.
- Pull-outs along the Hyatteville Logging Road.
- Improve Salt Lick trail and trailhead.
- Construct additional trailheads and trails.

Designate motorized touring loops within the Brokenback/Logging road RMZ as well as connecting with the Paint Rock RMZ and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Continue to implement current South Broken Back Travel Management Plan.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, and camping for areas including but not limited to North and South Brokenback roads, Luman Creek Road, Military Creek Road, Dorn Draw Road.

Lengthen public access duration for the North and South Brokenback roads to yearlong access.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Pursue additional access agreement in the South Brokenback, and North Brokenback areas.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

West Slope SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
South Bighorns RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
The southern Bighorns are popular for visitors to explore, hike, and especially hunt. Outfitters and tour guides enjoy guiding clients here due to the impressive and exceptional scenic qualities, abundant wildlife, and alternative access points onto 33-Mile Road (Hazelton Road) which exhibits exceptional viewing opportunities of the surrounding mountain landscape, the Cloud Peak Wilderness, the Bighorn Basin, and the Powder River Basin to the east; as well as access into the Hole-in-the-Wall region, the Middle Fork of the Powder River, Casper, and the Bighorn National Forest. The South Bighorns contain a rich history including cattle and sheep operations, mining, and infamous outlaws including Billy the Kid. Currently, impressive coordinated travel management efforts between the BLM, Wyoming State Game and Fish, Wyoming State Land Board, and the Orchard Ranch are improving access into the area as well as improving resource management. BLM manages a campground along the Middle Fork of the Powder River which is a destination area for visitors from within and outside the region. The Middle Fork of the Powder River is managed as a blue ribbon trout fishery, as well as identified as eligible and draft suitable for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System. The Buffalo Field Office had also identified the Middle Fork of the Powder River within their jurisdiction as eligible for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System. The impressive Deep Creek is another waterway segment identified as eligible and draft suitable for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as well as a sought-after fishery for exceptional fishing and sightseeing opportunities. This area has received significant managerial support from both the Worland and Buffalo Field Offices in improving access into the area to support a variety of recreational activities such as hunting and fishing.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
Objective Statement: Manage the South Bighorns RMZ as a zone within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.
Activities: Hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, driving for pleasure.
Experiences: Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoying the closeness of family.
Benefits: Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Stronger ties with my family and friends. Greater awareness that the Bighorn Basin is special. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding.

<p>Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p> <p>Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country Settings. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight. Front Country settings along Rome Hill Road, Dry Farm Road, and Hazelton Road. On or near improved country roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country Settings. Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area. Middle Country Settings for lands within the Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground. Natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations but would not draw the attention of the observers on trail and primitive roads within the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Middle Country. Primitive motorized and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes. Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground as Front Country.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country settings. Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small. Rural settings along Upper Nowood Road. People seem to be everywhere, but human contact remains intermittent.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Front/Middle Country. Front Country along Cherry Creek Road, Dry Farm Road, Spring Creek Road, Rome Hill Road, and Hazelton Road. 2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use. Middle Country for remainder of RMZ. 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Back Country. On site controls and services are present but subtle. Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.</p>

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Hazelton Road Back Country Byway, and the Upper Nowood Travel Management Plan.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop facilities necessary to maximize recreational opportunities at the Middle Fork camping area, the Cherry Creek stock driveway crossing of Deep Creek, Otter Creek.

Develop trailheads for Middle Fork Campground, Mahogany Butte, Deep Creek, Upper Nowood areas, and in other areas on a case-by-case basis.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II. Class I within the Deep Creek WSR.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Continue to implement current Upper Nowood Travel Management Plan.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, boating, and camping. Areas to be considered for acquisition include Otter Creek, Deep Creek, Little Canyon Creek, public land tracts along the Nowood River area, Cherry Creek Road to Hazelton Road, Lysite Mountain, land parcels within Spring Creek, and Spring Creek Road to Rome Hill Road.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the South Bighorns RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO stipulation will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of

damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Maintain cooperative agreement with Double-H Ranch, Wyoming State Land Board, and Wyoming Game and Fish.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Orchard Ranch, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

Canyon Creek SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
Canyon Creek area is located within the southern Bighorns just south of Highway 16, which is a very popular highway over the Bighorn Mountains as well as a popular route to Yellowstone National Park. Canyon Creek exhibits exceptionally high scenic qualities from the exposed dolomite and Ten Sleep formation observed through the impressive canyon complemented by the perennial Canyon Creek which supports a blue-ribbon fishery and a healthy riparian zone through the canyon. A subdivision (Canyon Creek Village) is growing south of the area in which residents enjoy exploring, hiking, hunting, and fishing Canyon Creek. Canyon Valley Resort is located within the area which provides recreational opportunities such as guiding services for visitors, big game outfitting, and golfing opportunities. The scenic qualities as well as the wildlife resources establish the foundation for the tourism market in this area. Smilo Road provides access into BLM-administered public lands east of Canyon Creek as well as the Bighorn National Forest.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Canyon Creek SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, fishing, nature viewing, and wildlife viewing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Fishing, hunting, hiking, nature viewing, wildlife viewing.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Develop skills and abilities. Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved mental well-being. Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Back Country. More than 0.5 mile from any road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight. Smilo Road, the access route to</p>

the Canyon Creek fishing access parking area, and few other two-tracks are observed along the edges of the area.

Naturalness:

Back Country.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are rare and isolated.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country settings.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back Country.

Mountain bikes perhaps other mechanize use but all is non-motorized. Smilo Road will remain open to motorized access into area.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, geology, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails, and camp sites.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop looping hiking trails in Canyon Creek, and off of Smilo Road.

Develop trailheads at Canyon Creek and Smilo Road.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Acquire legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Canyon Creek SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Pursue a cooperative agreement with the Canyon Creek Estates.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Canyon Creek Estates, Back Country Horsemen, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>Red Canyon Creek SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>Red Canyon Creek is located along the slopes of the Owl Creek Mountains outside the community of Thermopolis. This area exhibits high scenic qualities, wildlife resources, and opportunities for primitive-type recreation. A subdivision is growing on the north side of the area, which the adjacent BLM-administered public lands provides for easy-to-access public lands for the local residents. The community of Thermopolis has been marketing its natural recreational resources (most especially its thermal resources located within the very popular Hot Springs State Park), as well as prioritizing primitive-type recreational opportunities such as hiking, and horseback riding within the State Park.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Red Canyon Creek SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Middle Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, nature viewing.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Develop skills and abilities. Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved mental well-being. Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Back Country. Most of the SRMA is more than 0.5 mile from any road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight. Access routes (two-tracks and improved route) exist along the fringe of the SRMA, as well as within parcels of private lands within the area.</p>

Naturalness:

Back Country.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country settings.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back Country.

Manage the SRMA for mountain bikes perhaps other mechanized use but all is non-motorized. The fringes will be managed for 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use so as to maintain current land uses.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, geology, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails, and camp sites.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop hiking trail to Red Canyon Creek.

Develop trailheads at northern access point.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Red Canyon Creek SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Community of Thermopolis, Hot Springs State Park, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>The Rivers SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>The Rivers destination SRMA is made up of BLM-managed public lands on the North and South Forks of the Shoshone River, the main stem of the Shoshone River, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. These rivers are very popular for fishing, floating, sightseeing, and hunting and are used by local residents as well as visitors from throughout the nation and from foreign countries. Many visitors traveling to or from Yellowstone National Park spend time in Cody. Several companies offer commercial fishing or floating trips on these rivers. BLM and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) have an agreement which recognizes the high recreational value of various tracts of land along these rivers and provides for cooperative efforts to develop access and manage the sites. Many sites have been developed over the years. Several of the river access sites also serve as trailheads for hiking and horseback access to the Shoshone National Forest. In addition, there are access sites which have been developed by other parties. The North Fork of the Shoshone River and portions of the Shoshone River are considered blue-ribbon trout fisheries.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p> <p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage The Rivers SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities such as fishing, floating, photography, hunting, hiking, and nature viewing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural, front, and middle country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Fishing, floating, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and nature viewing.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy the closeness of family. Experiencing a greater sense of independence. Testing endurance. Enjoy risk taking adventure.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Improved mental well-being. Closer relationship with the natural world. Enhanced sense of personal freedom. Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Increased local job opportunities. Increased local tourism revenue. Improved local economic stability.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Rural Country. On or near primary highways, but still within a rural area. Front Country. On or near improved county roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway. Middle Country. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least ½ mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p> <p>Naturalness: Rural, Front, and Middle Country. Natural setting is culturally modified to the point that it is dominant to the sensitive travel route observer in some locations. In other locations, natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations but would not draw the attention of the observers on trails and primitive roads within the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Rural and Front Country. Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Front Country setting. Usually up to 29 encounters/day off travel routes and 30 or more encounters/day en-route. Group size varies from small to large. Visitor encounters can be high during peak use periods at the major boat ramps.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Front Country. Manage the majority of the river tracts for a Front Country setting where 2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Front Country. On site controls and services are present but harmonize with the natural environment. Personnel periodic.</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<u>Information and Education</u>
<p>Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs. Use information and interpretation to lessen visitor conflicts, resource impacts, and to increase visitor awareness of wildlife habitat and wetland management.</p> <p>Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.</p> <p>Provide for a map with designated roads, boat ramps, hazards, and BLM-administered public land tracts.</p> <p>Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!</p> <p>Work closely with the gateway communities of Cody, Powell, Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, Lovell, and Greybull, and other partners in the region in marketing and outreach.</p>

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other river segments, institute fee areas, or limit river use.

Management

Continue to provide for experiences and associated facilities with an emphasis on maintaining rural to front country recreation settings.

Continue to provide opportunities that contribute to meeting recreation demand while protecting resources.

In cooperation with WGFD and other partners, provide and maintain visitor facilities, services, signing, and programs.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to designated roads and trails for the North and South Forks of the Shoshone River and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and is limited to existing roads and trails for the Shoshone River area.

Lands and Realty:

Manage lands within one mile of the Shoshone, Greybull, and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as avoidance areas for construction of above ground power lines. Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Retain recreational access to the North and South Forks of the Shoshone, the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Apply NSO to some lands within the Rivers SRMA (WGFD/BLM access areas on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the North and South Forks of the Shoshone River).

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Communities of Cody, Powell, Lovell, Wyoming Game and Fish, Trout Unlimited, Shoshone Back Country Horsemen, Shoshone National Forest, Park County Recreation Board, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

On site controls and services are present but harmonize with the natural environment.

<p>McCullough Peaks SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>The McCullough Peaks SRMA lies east of Cody and north of U.S. Highway 14/16/20. This scenic, popular area is used by residents of Cody, Powell, Park and Big Horn Counties for uses such as viewing wild horses, sightseeing, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, photography, driving for pleasure (including ATVs and motorcycles), and wildlife viewing. Colorful badlands provide excellent photographic opportunities. Tourists traveling to or from Yellowstone National Park also use the area. Several commercial permittees provide wild horse viewing tours or interpretive tours in the area. The McCullough Peaks WSA lies within the SRMA as does the McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p> <p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the McCullough Peaks SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities such as wildlife and wild horse viewing, nature viewing, horseback riding, hunting, and hiking so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural, front, middle and back country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Viewing wild horses and wildlife, sightseeing, hunting, mountain biking, hiking, photography, driving for pleasure, horseback riding.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Learn. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoy the closeness of family. Learning more about things here. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Rural, Front, Middle, and Back Country. The eastern and southern boundaries lie along major highways. There are several BLM roads and numerous two-tracks and ATV trails in the SRMA area.</p> <p>Naturalness: Front and Middle Country. Natural setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area but not draw the attention of observers on trails and primitive routes. Back Country. Natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Rural and Front Country. Primitive and improved motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters. Middle Country. Primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country settings. Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes and up to 15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small. Middle Country settings. Usually up to 14 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect back country definition.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Front and Middle Country. Manage the SRMA for 2-wheel drive and 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes and non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Middle Country. On site controls and services are present but subtle. Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<u>Information and Education</u>
<p>Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.</p> <p>Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.</p> <p>Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails.</p> <p>Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!</p>

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Work with partners and other interested publics to determine road and trail maintenance and construction needs, signing needs, and access points.

Work with volunteers to develop and maintain limited facilities, as needed, in the area.

Signs present at key access points and to identify such items as travel routes, the WSA boundary, and the herd area boundary.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas, where appropriate.

Provide opportunities for the public to view wild horses in the McCullough Peaks HMA.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I in the McCullough Peaks WSA and Class II elsewhere in the SRMA.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the entire SRMA.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

No leasing within the McCullough Peaks WSA and NSO elsewhere in the SRMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Prohibit organized SRPs using domestic horses in the McCullough Peaks HMA.

Partners:

City of Cody; Park County Recreation Board; private landowners; local mountain biking, hiking, equestrian, and motorized groups, FOAL, Wyoming State Trails Program, and other interested groups.

Basin Gardens SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This area is located between the Communities of Greybull and Basin, Wyoming. This area is currently being used for off-road hill climbs used by both ATVs and motorcycles, dominantly motorcycles. Visitors are from within the communities, as well as from outside the area, particularly Billings, Montana. The area is composed of bentonite and mostly devoid of vegetation. The Basin Gardens area provides for exceptional motorized hill climbing opportunities ranging from novice riders to very challenging climbs for the experienced riders. The communities from RMP Scoping opportunities had identified this area as highly desired for motorized recreational opportunities.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
Objective Statement: Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ for motorized recreationists to engage in ATV, motorbike, and other motorized hill climbing activities so that visitors report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Front Country settings.
Activities: Driving for pleasure, motorcycle hill climbing.
Experiences: Developing skills and abilities. Enjoying risk-taking adventure. Being around people I know and enjoy.
Benefits: Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved outdoor recreation skills. Enhanced sense of personal freedom. More well-rounded childhood development. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Improved local economic stability. Increased local tourism revenue. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
Physical
Remoteness: Front Country. The RMZ is surrounded by county roads, and displays tracks from heavy off-road use.

Naturalness:

Front Country.

The area’s natural setting from the intense off-road use may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area. These alterations would remain unnoticed or visually subordinate from sensitive travel routes (Highway 16, 20) and use areas.

Facilities and Structures:

Front Country.

Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Middle Country settings.

Usually 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas), and 15-29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small to moderate.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Front Country.

On site controls and services are present but harmonize with the natural environment.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, and user safety.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated routes, trailheads, docking stations, designated areas tailored for different degrees of riding experience (novice areas to experienced areas).

Make information available to the surrounding communities.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop areas for novice riders to highly experienced riders.

Develop trailheads containing loading dock stations, kiosks, comfort stations, and adequate parking.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class III.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use open to off-road/cross-country use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Basin Gardens Play RMZ.

Prohibit mineral material sales and/or free use permits in the Basin Gardens Play Area.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding communities including but not limited to Greybull, Basin, Manderson, and Worland, Wyoming State Trails Program, surrounding private land owners, NOHVCC, Sagehoppers, and other interested groups and OHV clubs.

Other Administration:

No glass containers and pallets (burning, etc.) allowed.

Noise constraints are enforceable via 43 CFR 8343.1.

Basin Gardens SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Basin Gardens RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
The Basin Gardens RMZ area was identified through public scoping as a desirable area to enjoy motorized and non-motorized opportunities on BLM-administered public lands that are located close to the communities. Non-motorized opportunities, most especially mountain biking was identified as a highly popular activity. The area is located outside of Greybull, Wyoming. The hills west of the area are very popular for motorized hill climbing activities, as well as some identified mountain biking activities. Management focus for this RMZ will be for non-motorized recreation that would potentially be displaced by the motorized activities that dominate the adjoining RMZ.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Basin Gardens RMZ for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, nature viewing, and wildlife viewing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these back to middle country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Hiking, hunting, nature viewing, wildlife viewing, mountain biking.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Developing skills and abilities.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved capacity for outdoor physical activity. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country. Natural settings may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Back Country.</p>

Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are rare and isolated.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services present but subtle. Minimum amount necessary to achieve planning objectives.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, user safety, and designated travel routes.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Make information available to the surrounding communities.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop mountain biking trailheads and mountain biking routes.

Develop trailheads containing loading dock stations, kiosks, comfort stations, and adequate parking.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class III.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated routes and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Basin Gardens RMZ.

Prohibit mineral material sales and/or free use permits in the Basin Gardens RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding communities including but not limited to Greybull, Basin, Manderson, and Worland, Wyoming State Trails Program, surrounding private land owners, IMBA, Backcountry Horsemen, and other interested groups.

<p>Horse Pasture SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The Horse Pasture SRMA is 144 acres of BLM-administered public land nestled along the foothills of Rattlesnake Ridge and surrounded by agriculture uses. This area was once used as an oil and gas staging area, complete with residential buildings. Currently, in coordination with Devon Energy Corporation, the BLM is in the process of reclaiming the area to pre-development landscape. The area is used by the community of Worland for uses such as walking, hunting (bird and big game), and nature viewing.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Horse Pasture SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in photography, hunting, nature viewing, and sightseeing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these middle country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, photography, hunting (bird and big game), dog interaction (walking, training, hunting, etc.).</p> <p>Experiences: Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Learn. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoy the closeness of family. Learning more about things here. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p>Benefits: Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Front Country. The south boundary is along an improved road used for agricultural purpose. Some primitive routes exist within the area from past management. Within the SRMA, the desired remoteness setting will be middle country, the edge will, by default, be front country.</p>

Naturalness:

Back Country.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country settings.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect primitive definition.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back Country.

Manage the SRMA for mountain bikes perhaps other mechanized use but all is non-motorized. The fringes will be managed for 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use so as to maintain current land uses.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop interpretive/historic nature trail within the Horse Pasture.

Develop trailhead at western edge of SRMA.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA, with exception to nature trail.

Interpretive signs at trailhead, and along trail.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

The area is closed to motorized use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Horse Pasture SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO stipulation will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Community of Worland, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Devon Energy, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>Bighorn River SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The Bighorn River has been a very popular area known for river recreation such as boating/floating, fishing, hunting, and motor boating. The southern river segments (from Wedding of the Waters to Skelton Bridge) are managed as a blue-ribbon fishery with many Wyoming Game and Fish managed put-in and take-outs. The river contains BLM-administered islands, as well as other scattered tracts of land that provide for river access. Recently, the BLM acquired the Eggert tract which has enhanced user access to the river, as well as extended float trips from boaters putting-in upstream of the tract. From Greybull north to Bighorn Lake, there are three public access locations: Railroad, Greybull Bridge, and ML Dike Ramp. The Bighorn River tracts are currently managed under the Bighorn River Habitat Management Plan and Recreation Area Management Plan (2/23/1989). The HMP/RAMP prescribes management for other resources such as wildlife, vegetation, fisheries, and invasive and noxious weed management.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u></p> <p>Manage the Bighorn River SRMA for river recreation use for visitors to engage in sightseeing, hunting, photography, fishing, and floating so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in back to middle country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>Sightseeing, hunting, photography, fishing, and floating.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u></p> <p>Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy the closeness of family. Experiencing a greater sense of independence. Testing endurance. Enjoy risk taking adventure.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u></p> <p>Improved mental well-being. Closer relationship with the natural world. Enhanced sense of personal freedom. Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Increased local job opportunities. Increased local tourism revenue. Improved local economic stability.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Front Country.</p> <p>The tracts provide for main access points to the Bighorn River, which are on or near improved county roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country.</p> <p>Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area. Some tracts along the Bighorn River (Durkee Boat Ramp) are Front Country due to adjacent land uses.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Front Country.</p> <p>Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country settings.</p> <p>Most of the Bighorn River Tracts are usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect primitive definition.</p> <p>Visitor encounters can be high during peak use periods at the boat ramp. Encounters diminish the further downstream (north).</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Front Country.</p> <p>Manage the majority of the river tracts for a Front Country setting where 2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Back Country.</p> <p>On site controls and services are present but subtle.</p> <p>Personnel periodic. Minimum amount necessary to achieve planning objectives.</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Information and Education</u></p> <p>Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs. Use information and interpretation to lessen visitor conflicts, resource impacts, and to increase visitor awareness of wildlife habitat and wetland management.</p> <p>Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.</p> <p>Provide for a map with designated roads, boat ramps, hazards, and BLM-administered public land tracts.</p> <p>Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!</p> <p>Work closely with the gateway communities of Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, Lovell, and Greybull, and other partners in the region in marketing and outreach.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Monitoring</u></p> <p>Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.</p> <p>Visitor reports of crowding.</p> <p>Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.</p>

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other river segments, institute fee areas, or limit river use.

Management

Continue to provide for a day use experience and associated facilities with an emphasis on maintaining a middle country recreation setting.

Continue to provide opportunities that contribute to meeting recreation demand while protecting resources.

Provide and maintain visitor facilities, services, signing, and programs.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Bighorn River SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

An NSO stipulation will be applied.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Communities of Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, Lovell, and Greybull, Wyoming Game and Fish, National Park Service, Friends of Bighorn Lake, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>Beck Lake Area SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>The Beck Lake Area SRMA contains about 6,483 acres of BLM-administered public land south of Beck Lake. The area is used by residents of Cody and Park County for uses such as mountain biking, hiking, hunting, driving for pleasure, and wildlife viewing. The City of Cody is seeking a Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) lease for land in the northern portion of the SRMA. That land would complement the recreation facilities the City manages at Beck Lake Park. Management of the R&PP area would be governed by agreement(s) and operating plan(s) associated with its R&PP status.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement:</p> <p>Manage the Beck Lake Area community SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in mountain biking, hiking, photography, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural and front country settings.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, photography, hunting, dog interaction (walking, training, hunting, etc.).</p> <p>Experiences:</p> <p>Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Learn. Enjoy the closeness of family. Learning more about things here.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness:</p> <p>Rural and Front Country.</p> <p>A major highway lies along the eastern boundary of the SRMA. Numerous primitive and developed roads lie within the area.</p>

Naturalness:

Rural to Front Country.

Natural setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Rural and Front Country.

Primitive and improved motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Middle Country settings.

Usually up to 14 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back Country.

Manage the SRMA for mountain bikes perhaps other mechanized use but all is non-motorized.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with access, trailheads, trails.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Work with partners and other interested publics to determine trail maintenance and construction needs, signing needs, and access points.

Work with volunteers to develop and maintain limited facilities, as needed, in the area.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailhead.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

The area is closed to motorized use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

NSO.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property.

The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

City of Cody, Park County Recreation Board, private landowners, local mountain biking and hiking groups, Wyoming State Trails Program, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

<p>Newton Lake Ridge SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The Newton Lake Ridge SRMA contains about 1,997 acres of BLM-administered public land north of Newton Lakes. The area is used by residents of Cody and Park County for uses such as mountain biking, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in mountain biking, hiking, photography, hunting, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural, front, and middle country settings.</p>
<p>Activities: Mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, photography, hunting.</p>
<p>Experiences: Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Learn. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoy the closeness of family. Learning more about things here. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p>
<p>Benefits: Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p>Physical</p>
<p>Remoteness: Rural, Front, and Middle Country. The northeastern boundary is along a major highway. Several short, primitive routes occur within the SRMA.</p>
<p>Naturalness: Front and Middle Country. Natural setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within</p>

the area but not draw the attention of observers on trails and primitive routes.

Facilities and Structures:

Rural and Front Country.

Primitive and improved motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country settings.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect primitive definition.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back Country.

Manage the SRMA for mountain bikes perhaps other mechanized use but all is non-motorized.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Work with partners and other interested publics to determine trail maintenance and construction needs, signing needs, and access points.

Work with volunteers to develop and maintain limited facilities, as needed, in the area.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailhead.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

The area is closed to motorized use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

NSO.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

City of Cody, Park County Recreation Board, private landowners, local mountain biking and hiking groups, Wyoming State Trails Program, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

Worland Caves ERMA

ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.

This ERMA is within the entire Bighorn Basin Planning Area and will guide recreation management for the known and for newly discovered cave and karst systems for both the Worland and the Cody Field Offices. A cave is defined as any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages occurring beneath the surface of the Earth or within a cliff or ledge large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance is naturally formed or man. In the planning area, solution caves are, by far the most common type of cave. They are found in limestone and dolomite strata and are formed by the dissolving of rock along and adjacent to joints (fractures), faults, and bedding planes in the rock. Caves were often used by Native Americans as temporary living quarters, storage areas, shelter, and game traps. Cave resources are fragile due to their association with other resources such as groundwater hydrologic systems and biological communities. They may also be considered non-renewable resources due to paleontological and archaeological deposits, speleothems (formations inside caves), and biological resources.

The known cave and karst resources throughout the planning area are very popular for recreational activities. Spirit Mountain, in the Cody Field Office, is an example of observed high recreation use. Caves provide for very unique opportunities and experiences and nearly every caving experience results in desired beneficial outcomes for the visitor. Managing the cave resources as a separate ERMA will enable to focus more recreation management to be more proactive in adequately managing the cave resources, as well as providing for desired cave and karst activities, experiences, and beneficial outcomes.

ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION

ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.

Objective Statement:

Guidelines to be considered in addressing resource demands include, but are not limited to: a regulation of surface disturbance in regard to future renewable energy developments, the avoidance of future ROW actions through any cave areas deemed to be significant, attempts to acquire resources through exchange, implementing fire suppression restrictions and geophysical exploration restrictions to comply with OHV restrictions, and management under Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II, III, and IV guidelines as identified for each cave unit. Cave resources could be monitored for degradation. Managers may evaluate the desirability and practicality of various monitoring strategies including, but are not limited to, photo monitoring, water quality monitoring, and a periodic census of indicator species. Management policies and guidelines should be established for cave resources specific to the planning area identifying how to manage the land around the resources including policies related to travel management, gates or barricades, erosion, appropriate recreation use, and resource protection.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USE DECISIONS

Identify management action and allowable use decisions for R&VS and other programs necessary to: facilitate visitor participation in the identified outdoor recreation activities; maintain particular recreation setting characteristics; address visitor health and safety, resource protection, and use and user conflicts; and, address the type(s), activities, and locations where special recreation permits would or would not be issued.

Physical

Remoteness:

Maintain primitive and pristine environment in the cave and karst systems.

Naturalness:

Manage the natural setting so that they may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Facilities and structures are extremely rare and developed only in occasions where necessary to protect the cave and karst environment.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Manage for a season average of fewer than 6 encounters/day on and off travel routes.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Manage for both non-motorized and motorized travel above ground over cave and karst passages.

Within cave and karst passages, foot traffic only.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

On site controls and services present at key access points, but subtle.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM monitoring presence during spike caving use, usually during the summer.

Minimum amount of BLM facilitating outputs necessary to achieve planning objectives.

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop educational signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, geology, and wilderness.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as Boy Scouts, CORE, and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with surveys and observation.

Visitor registers and cave register to observe crowding issues.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered.

Management

Cave and Karst management will be guided from the Worland Caves Management Plan.

Develop primitive trailheads at key access points.

Install kiosks and signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Signs present at key access points, but very limited within the ERMA.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage consistent with underlying resource VRM prescriptions.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas over important caves or cave passages.

Lands and Realty:

Manage Lands and Realty actions consistent with underlying management prescriptions.

Minerals, Oil and Gas Leasing, and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Cave and karst areas are closed to mineral material disposals, withdrawn from locatable entry, and closed to mineral leasing. These same restrictions apply to important caves or cave passages and karst resources as they are identified.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –
Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –
SRP required.

Partners:

Including, but not limited to: Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Sierra Club, Wyoming Wilderness Association, NOLS, NSS, and local grotto clubs.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls.

ALTERNATIVE C

<p>Rattlesnake Ridge SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>This area is located approximately 4 miles east of Worland, Wyoming. This area is currently being used for off-road hill climbs used by both ATVs and motorcycles, dominantly motorcycles; as well as oil and gas extraction activities, ROW projects including radio signal towers, and grazing. Most of the visitors are from within the Worland area, as well as from other areas outside of the Worland area, most especially from Thermopolis, Wyoming. The area is heavily used by motorized use enthusiasts, and is mostly devoid of vegetation. The Rattlesnake Ridge area provides for exceptional motorized hill climbing opportunities ranging from novice riders to very challenging climbs for the experienced riders. In addition, the surrounding communities had identified this area as highly desirable for motorized recreational opportunities during the RMP Scoping meetings.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the Rattlesnake Ridge SRMA with a community recreation strategy for motorized recreationists to engage in ATV, motorbike, and other motorized hill climbing activities so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these front to rural settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Driving for pleasure, motorcycle hill climbing.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Developing skills and abilities. Enjoying risk-taking adventure. Being around people I know and enjoy.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved outdoor recreation skills. Enhanced sense of personal freedom. More well-rounded childhood development. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Improved local economic stability. Increased local tourism revenue. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Rural Country. The RMZ is surrounded by county roads, and displays tracks from heavy off-road use. The area is on or near primary highways, but still within a rural area.</p> <p>Naturalness: Rural Country. The area’s natural setting from the intense off-road use as well as the industrial activities is culturally modified to the point that it is dominant to the sensitive travel route observer, Pedestrians or other slow moving observers are constantly within view of culturally changed landscape.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Rural Country. Paved, improved, and/or primitive roads/highways dominate the landscape. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Middle Country settings. Usually 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas), and 15-29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small to moderate.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Middle Country. 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Rural Country. On site controls and services are obvious and numerous. Largely harmonize with the man-made environment (dominantly from the oil and gas extraction activities and the ROW projects).</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<u>Information and Education</u>
<p>Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, and user safety.</p> <p>Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.</p> <p>Provide for a map with designated routes, trailheads, docking stations, designated areas tailored for different degrees of riding experience (novice areas to experienced areas).</p> <p>Make information available to the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!</p>
<u>Monitoring</u>
<p>Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.</p> <p>Visitor reports of crowding.</p> <p>Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.</p> <p>If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.</p>

Management

Develop areas for novice riders to highly experienced riders.

Develop trailheads containing loading dock stations, kiosks, comfort stations, and adequate parking.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Class IV.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use open to off-road/cross-country use.

Lands and Realty:

Open to all ROW (including alternative energy realty actions).

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Open to oil and gas, to mineral entry and, other mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding communities including but not limited to Worland, Thermopolis, Manderson, Basin, and Greybull; Wyoming State Trails Program, surrounding land users and industry, NOHVCC, Sagehoppers, and other interested groups and OHV clubs.

Other Administration:

No glass containers and pallets (burning, etc.) allowed.

Noise constraints are enforceable via 43 CFR 8343.1.

<p>Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA</p>
<p>ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.</p>
<p>This area is located between the Communities of Greybull and Basin, Wyoming. This area is currently being used for off-road hill climbs used by both ATVs and motorcycles, dominantly motorcycles. Visitors are from within the communities, as well as from outside the area, particularly Billings, Montana. The area is composed of bentonite and mostly devoid of vegetation. The Basin Gardens area provides for exceptional motorized hill climbing opportunities ranging from novice riders to very challenging climbs for the experienced riders. The communities from RMP Scoping opportunities had identified this area as highly desired for motorized recreational opportunities.</p>
<p>ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION</p>
<p>ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area as a separate ERMA for motorized recreationists to engage in ATV, motorbike, and other motorized hill climbing activities so as to address public health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection in these Front Country settings.</p>
<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USE DECISIONS</p>
<p>Identify management action and allowable use decisions for R&VS and other programs necessary to: facilitate visitor participation in the identified outdoor recreation activities; maintain particular recreation setting characteristics; address visitor health and safety, resource protection, and use and user conflicts; and, address the type(s), activities, and locations where special recreation permits would or would not be issued.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u> Remoteness: Front Country. The RMZ is surrounded by county roads, and displays tracks from heavy off-road use. Naturalness: Front Country. The area’s natural setting from the intense off-road use may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area. These alterations would remain unnoticed or visually subordinate from sensitive travel routes (Highway 16, 20) and use areas. Facilities and Structures: Front Country. Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.</p>
<p><u>Social</u> Contacts and Group Size: Middle Country settings. Usually 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas), and 15-29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small to moderate.</p>
<p><u>Operational</u> Mechanized Use: Middle Country. 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.</p>
<p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Front Country. On site controls and services are present but harmonize with the natural environment.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, and user safety.

Provide for a map with designated routes, trailheads, docking stations, designated areas tailored for different degrees of riding experience (novice areas to experienced areas).

Make information available to the surrounding communities.

Make available for special educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other OHV areas/ trails.

Management

Develop areas for novice riders to highly experienced riders.

Develop trailheads containing loading dock stations, kiosks, comfort stations, and adequate parking.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the ERMA.

User ethics and informational signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage visual resource objectives consistent with adjacent resource program prescriptions. Manage surface-disturbing activities so as to minimize visual contrasts.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use open to off-road/cross-country use.

Lands and Realty:

Open the Basin Gardens Play area to new ROWs.

Minerals:

Pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA.

Prohibit mineral material sales and/or free use permits in the Basin Gardens Play Area.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).

Open the Basin Gardens Play area to oil and gas and other mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding communities including but not limited to Greybull, Basin, Manderson, and Worland, Wyoming State Trails Program, surrounding private land owners, NOHVCC, Sagehoppers, and other interested groups and OHV clubs.

Other Administration:

No glass containers and pallets (burning, etc.) allowed.

Noise constraints are enforceable via 43 CFR 8343.1.

<p>Basin Gardens ERMA</p>
<p>ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.</p>
<p>The Basin Gardens RMZ area was identified through public scoping as a desirable area to enjoy motorized and non-motorized opportunities on BLM-administered public lands that are located close to the communities. Non-motorized opportunities, most especially mountain biking was identified as a highly popular activity. The area is located outside of Greybull, Wyoming. The hills west of the area is very popular for motorized hill climbing activities, as well as some identified mountain biking activities. Management focus for this RMZ will be for non-motorized recreation that would potentially be displaced by the motorized activities that dominate the adjoining RMZ.</p>
<p>ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION</p>
<p>ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the Basin Gardens RMZ for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, nature viewing, and wildlife viewing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these back to middle country settings.</p>
<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USE DECISIONS</p>
<p>Identify management action and allowable use decisions for R&VS and other programs necessary to: facilitate visitor participation in the identified outdoor recreation activities; maintain particular recreation setting characteristics; address visitor health and safety, resource protection, and use and user conflicts; and, address the type(s), activities, and locations where special recreation permits would or would not be issued.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p><u>Remoteness:</u> Middle Country. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p> <p><u>Naturalness:</u> Back Country. Natural settings may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p><u>Facilities and Structures:</u> Back Country. Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are rare and isolated.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p><u>Contacts and Group Size:</u> Back Country. Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p><u>Mechanized Use:</u> Middle Country. 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p><u>Management Controls and Visitor Services:</u> Back Country. On site controls and services present but subtle. Minimum amount necessary to achieve planning objectives.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, and user safety.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Make information available to the surrounding communities.

Make available for special educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Monitor visitor use, visitor safety, and resource conditions through; BLM staff, volunteers and recreation-tourism partnerships (e.g., towns, outfitters, recreation organizations, etc.).

Vehicle counters with routine surveys, on-site patrols, and observation.

Management

Develop mountain biking trailheads and mountain biking routes.

Develop trailheads containing loading dock stations, kiosks, comfort stations, and adequate parking.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the ERMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage visual resource objectives consistent with adjacent resource program prescriptions. Manage surface-disturbing activities so as to minimize the degree of visual contrast.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to existing roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

Open the Basin Gardens area to new ROWs.

Open the Basin Gardens area to alternative energy realty actions (i.e., wind, solar, etc.).

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Basin Gardens area.

Authorize mineral material sales and/or free use permits in the Basin Gardens area.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).

Open the Basin Gardens Creek area to oil and gas and other mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding communities including but not limited to Greybull, Basin, Manderson, and Worland, Wyoming State Trails Program, surrounding private land owners, IMBA, Backcountry Horsemen, and other interested groups.

ALTERNATIVES D AND F

<p>Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>This SRMA is necessary to accommodate back to middle country recreational experiences in a recreational resource rich environment. The Absaroka Mountain Foothills area is a very popular destination for both local residents and out-of-region visitors due to the openness, and naturalness of the area. The area is abundant in a wide variety of wildlife including grizzly bears, major access into the Shoshone National Forest and the Washakie Wilderness, and dramatic scenery.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Absaroka Mountain Foothills as an undeveloped SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that they realize a “moderate” level of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Wildlife viewing, nature viewing, hiking, hunting, horseback riding.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. Learning more about things here.</p> <p>Benefits: Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Improved mental well-being and physical fitness and health maintenance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Back Country. Implement/maintain road closures to maintain back country settings.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country. Manage for back country and middle country settings where natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p>

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Allow for primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails to exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes. Horse and hiking trailheads will be constructed at major key access points.

Social

Contacts and Group size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back to Middle Country.

Main access roads are crowned and ditched gravel roads accessed by 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use. Roads within the LU Sheep Company area are closed, but available for public access during hunting season. Trails for non-motorized use will be constructed so as to access public lands.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails, and seasonal closures within the LU Sheep Company area.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the LU Ranch cooperative agreement.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

Visitor surveys will be available in register boxes at trailheads.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Develop trailheads for foot and horse travel. Potential locations will include the Blue Creek Trail, and sites along the South fork of the Owl Creek. Additional sites may be identified throughout the life of the plan.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Appendix O – Recreation

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

For lands within the Absaroka Front Management Area, oil and gas leasing is subject to those management actions.

Outside of the Absaroka Front Management Area, allow surface-disturbing activities in the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.

A CSU will be stipulated within the SRMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Maintain cooperative agreement with Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Game and Fish, and LU Sheep Company.

Seek other agreements and partnerships as appropriate.

Partners:

Surrounding private land owners, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, LU Sheep Company, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Pack goats are prohibited.

Absaroka ERMA

ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.

This separate ERMA is necessary to accommodate back to middle country recreational experiences in a recreational resource rich environment. The Absaroka Mountain Foothills area is a very popular destination for both local residents and out-of-region visitors due to the openness, and naturalness of the area. The area is abundant in a wide variety of wildlife including grizzly bears, major access into the Shoshone National Forest and the Washakie Wilderness, and dramatic scenery. However, despite the natural recreational resources, access is very challenging due to the scattered parcels of BLM-administered public land which invites user conflicts.

ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION

ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.

Objective Statement:

Manage the Absaroka Foothills as an ERMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing these Back Country and Middle Country settings. Recreation management will focus on addressing resource protection, minimizing use and user conflicts, and public health and safety.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USE DECISIONS

Identify management action and allowable use decisions for R&VS and other programs necessary to: facilitate visitor participation in the identified outdoor recreation activities; maintain particular recreation setting characteristics; address visitor health and safety, resource protection, and use and user conflicts; and, address the type(s), activities, and locations where special recreation permits would or would not be issued.

Physical

Remoteness:

Middle Country.

Implement a Travel Management Plan so as to maintain the back to middle country settings. Maintain Back Country settings within the South Owl Creek Canyon.

Naturalness:

Back Country.

Manage for back country settings where natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Middle Country.

Allow for primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails to exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes. Horse and hiking trailheads will be constructed at major key access points. Maintain primitive setting within the South Owl Creek canyons where trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are extremely rare.

Social

Contacts and Group size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back to Middle Country.

Main access roads are crowned and ditched gravel roads accessed by 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use. Trails for non-motorized use will be constructed so as to access public lands.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails.

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Use information and interpretation to lessen visitor conflicts, resource impacts, and to increase visitor awareness of wildlife habitat and wetland management.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, easements, trailheads, and surface ownership.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Monitor visitor use, visitor safety, and resource conditions through; BLM staff, volunteers and recreation-tourism partnerships (e.g., towns, outfitters, recreation organizations, etc.).

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the ERMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Develop recreational facilities so as to address resource protection, use and user conflicts, and public health and safety.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Manage VRM consistent with other resource objectives.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Absaroka ERMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

For lands within the Absaroka Front Management Area, oil and gas leasing is subject to those management actions.

Outside of the Absaroka Front Management Area, allow surface-disturbing activities in the Absaroka ERMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.

A CSU will be stipulated within the ERMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding private land owners, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups and stakeholders.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Pack goats are prohibited.

<p>Bighorn River SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>The Bighorn River is a popular area known for river recreation such as boating/floating, fishing, hunting, and motor boating. The river contains scattered tracts of BLM-administered lands that provide for river access. From Greybull north to Bighorn Lake, there are three public access locations: Railroad, Greybull Bridge, and ML Dike Ramp. There may be opportunities in the future to provide additional access. The Bighorn River tracts are currently managed under the Bighorn River Habitat Management Plan and Recreation Area Management Plan (2/23/1989). The HMP/RAMP prescribes management for other resources such as wildlife, vegetation, fisheries, and invasive and noxious weed management.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the Bighorn River SRMA for river recreation use for visitors to engage in sightseeing, hunting, photography, fishing, and floating so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in back, middle, and front country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Sightseeing, hunting, photography, fishing, and floating.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy the closeness of family. Experiencing a greater sense of independence. Testing endurance. Enjoy risk taking adventure.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Improved mental well-being. Closer relationship with the natural world. Enhanced sense of personal freedom. Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Increased local job opportunities. Increased local tourism revenue. Improved local economic stability.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Front Country. The tracts provide for main access points to the Bighorn River, which are on or near improved county roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country. Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area. Some tracts along the Bighorn River are Front or Middle Country due to adjacent land uses.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Front Country. Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country settings. Most of the Bighorn River Tracts are usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect primitive definition. Visitor encounters can be high during peak use periods at the boat ramps. Encounters diminish the further downstream (north).</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Front Country. Manage the majority of the river tracts for a Front Country setting where 2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Back Country. On site controls and services are present but subtle. Personnel periodic. Minimum amount necessary to achieve planning objectives.</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<u>Information and Education</u>
Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs. Use information and interpretation to lessen visitor conflicts, resource impacts, and to increase visitor awareness of wildlife habitat and wetland management.
Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.
Provide for a map with designated roads, boat ramps, hazards, and BLM-administered public land tracts.
Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!
Work closely with the gateway communities of Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, Lovell, and Greybull, and other partners in the region in marketing and outreach.
<u>Monitoring</u>
Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.
Visitor reports of crowding.
Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.
If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other

river segments, institute fee areas, or limit river use.

Management

Continue to provide for a day use experience and associated facilities with an emphasis on maintaining a middle country recreation setting.

Continue to provide opportunities that contribute to meeting recreation demand while protecting resources.

Provide and maintain visitor facilities, services, signing, and programs.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Bighorn River SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.

An NSO stipulation will be applied to the SRMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Communities of Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, Lovell, and Greybull, Wyoming Game and Fish, National Park Service, Friends of Bighorn Lake, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Bighorn River ERMA

ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.

The Bighorn River has been a very popular area known for river recreation such as boating/floating, diverse fishery, hunting, and even motor boating. The southern river segments (from Wedding of the Waters to Skelton Bridge) are managed as a blue-ribbon fishery with many Wyoming Game and Fish managed put-in and take-outs. The river contains BLM-administered islands, as well as other scattered tracts of land that provide for river access. Recently, the BLM acquired the Eggert tract which has enhanced user access to the river, as well as extend float trips from boaters putting-in upstream of the tract. The Bighorn River tracts are currently managed under the Bighorn River Habitat Management Plan and Recreation Area Management Plan (2/23/1989). The HMP/RAMP prescribes management from other resources such as wildlife, vegetation, fisheries, and invasive and noxious weed management. Most river access is via the Wyoming Game and Fish access points. Readily accessible BLM-administered public lands are located outside of the “blue-ribbon” section of the Bighorn River, and the tracts are scattered. Primary objectives for these tracts are to enhance wildlife habitat.

ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION

ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.

Objective Statement:

Manage access to the Bighorn River ERMA for river recreation use for visitors to engage in sightseeing, hunting, photography, fishing, and floating. Manage recreation use for enhanced recreational opportunities, as well as to manage for resource protection, and to minimize use and user conflicts, and public health and safety consistent with the HMP/RAMP.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USE DECISIONS

Identify management action and allowable use decisions for R&VS and other programs necessary to: facilitate visitor participation in the identified outdoor recreation activities; maintain particular recreation setting characteristics; address visitor health and safety, resource protection, and use and user conflicts; and, address the type(s), activities, and locations where special recreation permits would or would not be issued.

Physical

Remoteness:

Front Country.

The tracts provide for main access points to the Bighorn River, which are on or near improved county roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway.

Naturalness:

Back Country.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area. Some tracts along the Bighorn River (Durkee Boat Ramp) are Front Country due to adjacent land uses.

Facilities and Structures:

Front Country.

Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country settings.

Most of the Bighorn River Tracts are usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect primitive definition.

Visitor encounters can be high during peak use periods at the boat ramps located in the southern sections of the Bighorn River (Wedding of the Waters to Skelton Bridge). Encounters diminish the further downstream (north).

Operational**Mechanized Use:**

Front Country.

Manage the majority of the river tracts for a Front Country setting where 2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Minimum amount necessary to achieve planning objectives.

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs. Use information and interpretation to lessen visitor conflicts, resource impacts, and to increase visitor awareness of wildlife habitat and wetland management.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, boat ramps, hazards, and BLM-administered public land tracts.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Work closely with the gateway communities of Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, and Greybull, and other partners in the region in marketing and outreach.

Monitoring

Vehicle counters at access points with routine surveys and observation.

Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: Monitor recreation setting condition through on-site patrols. Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

Visitor reports of crowding. If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other river segments, institute fee areas, or limit river use.

Management

Continue to provide for a day use experience and associated facilities with an emphasis on maintaining a middle country recreation setting.

Continue to provide opportunities that contribute to meeting recreation demand while protecting resources.

Provide and maintain visitor facilities, services, signing, and programs.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Manage visual resources consistent with adjacent resource prescriptions.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Manage trails and travel management consistent with adjacent resource prescriptions.

Lands and Realty:

Lands within the Bighorn River ERMA are ROW avoidance areas. ROWs are collocated whenever possible.

The Bighorn River ERMA is an alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions (i.e., wind, solar, etc.).

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Bighorn River ERMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Apply an NSO restriction on lands within the Bighorn River ERMA.

Avoid surface-disturbing activities within the Bighorn River ERMA such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of

recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Communities of Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, and Greybull, Wyoming Game and Fish, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Badlands SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Tour de Badlands RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This RMZ is contained within the Badlands SRMA, which is popular for motorized touring to explore the scenic desert basin. Natural recreational resources within the SRMA contain wildlife, open spaces, wild horses, and an erratic landscape which offers outstanding scenic quality.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ for motorized recreationists to engage in motorized sightseeing touring, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Middle Country and Front Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Driving for pleasure, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, sightseeing.</p> <p>Experiences: Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Enjoy having access to close-to-home outdoor amenities. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved mental well-being. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle/Front Country. On or near 4-wheeled drive and improved roads. Maintain main access roads through the area for 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive access into the Badlands area.</p> <p>Naturalness: Middle Country. Natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations but would not draw the attention of the observers on trails and primitive roads within the area.</p>

Facilities and Structures:

Front Country.

Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Front Country.

2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use. On site controls and services present but subtle.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

On site controls and services present but subtle. Signs present at key access points. Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM monitoring presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, wildlife, and wild horses resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the wild horse program, and surrounding WSAs.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Maintain a strong sign program so as to keep the access routes within the RMZ well marked.

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop one or more scenic interpretive sites and driving loops for motorized and mechanized travel in the Tour de Badlands area within the Badlands SRMA to highlight the area's scenic values. These could involve the Fifteenmile Creek and Dorsey Creek roads and The Murphy Draw Road with overlooks at the Painted Canyon of Elk Creek and at Bobcat Draw.

Identify routes to close and reclaim, construct new routes, and identify routes to remain open.

Develop trailheads for ATV unloading stations.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Additional sites may be identified throughout the life of the plan.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the RMZ.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Manage VRM consistent with other resource management objectives.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW exclusion area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Tour de Badlands area.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.

Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Tour de Badlands RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), saleable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Private landowners, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, IMBA, community ATV organizations, and other clubs/organizations.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Badlands SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Wild Badlands RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This RMZ is within the Badlands SRMA. This RMZ is rich in natural recreational resources such as erratic and dramatic landscapes, management to maintain the primitive to semi-primitive setting characteristics, wilderness characteristics, three WSAs, wildlife, and wild horses which caters to primitive and semi-primitive recreational experiences.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Wild Badlands RMZ exclusively for non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, sightseeing.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p>Benefits: Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Closer relationship with the natural world. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p>Physical</p> <p>Remoteness: Back Country. Maintain road closures to maintain back country settings.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country. Manage the natural setting so that they may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Primitive. Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are extremely rare and</p>

developed only in occasions where necessary to protect the back country settings.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Manage for a season average of fewer than 6 encounters/day on and off travel routes.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Primitive.

Non-motorized and non-mechanized (foot and horseback) travel only.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services present at key access points, but subtle.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM monitoring presence during hunting season.

Minimum amount of BLM facilitating outputs necessary to achieve planning objectives.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop educational signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, geology, and wilderness.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with WSAs, access points, information regarding the wilderness program, and outdoor ethics messages such as Leave No Trace!

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with surveys and observation along perimeter of WSAs.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Identify routes to close and reclaim. Modify identified routes into non-motorized and non-mechanized trails.

Develop primitive trailheads at key access points.

Install kiosks and signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Signs present at key access points, but very limited within the RMZ.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Closed to motorized and non-mechanized travel.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy exclusion area for realty actions.

Minerals, Oil and Gas Leasing, and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Mineral uses, Oil and Gas and Geothermal leasing, exploration, and development will be guided by the Interim

Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Including, but not limited to: Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Sierra Club, Wyoming Wilderness Association.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Badlands SRMA
SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.
Tatman Mountain RMZ
SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.
This RMZ is within the Badlands SRMA. Much like the Wild Badlands RMZ, this RMZ is rich in natural recreational resources such as erratic and dramatic landscapes, dominant mountainous environment, and current management to maintain the primitive to semi-primitive setting characteristics, wildlife, and wild horses which caters to primitive and semi-primitive recreational experiences. The RMZ is located to the west of Sheep Mountain WSA and provides for exceptional wildlife resource opportunities, access, motorized and primitive forms of touring, and high scenic quality.
SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS
SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Tatman Mountain RMZ for non-motorized recreationists to engage in muscle-powered activities such as hiking, hunting, mountain biking, and horseback riding so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back country to Middle country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Hiking, hunting, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, sightseeing.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p>Benefits: Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Closer relationship with the natural world. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country. Manage the natural setting so that they may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p>

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use.

Facilities and structures are extremely rare and developed only in occasions where necessary to protect the back country settings.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Manage for a season average of fewer than 6 encounters/day on and off travel routes. In issuing SRPs, allow for a group size less than 5 participants.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle/Back Country.

Middle country for the access routes acting as main portals into the RMZ. Manage for back country settings (non-motorized travel) outside of those corridors.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

On site controls and services present at key access points, but subtle.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM monitoring presence during hunting season.

Minimum amount of BLM facilitating outputs necessary to achieve planning objectives.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop educational signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, geology, wild horses, and wilderness characteristics.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated routes and trails, key access points, private lands, and outdoor ethics messages such as Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace!

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Identify routes to maintain as open to motorized use. Reclaim routes identified as closed. Maintain open routes so as to sustain motorized use. Modify identified closed routes into non-motorized and mechanized trails for muscle-powered recreational activities.

Develop primitive trailheads at key access points.

Install kiosks and signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Signs present at key access points, but very limited within the RMZ.

Administrative**Visual Resource Management:**

Manage VRM consistent with other resource management objectives.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Acquire legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Tatman Mountain RMZ.

Minerals, Oil and Gas Leasing, and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

A CSU is stipulated within this zone.

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Including, but not limited to: Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Back Country Horsemen, Sierra Club, Wyoming Wilderness Association.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA – Worland Field Office

SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.

Canyons RMZ

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.

This RMZ is contained within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA. The Canyon RMZ attracts visitors from both the surrounding communities to outside the region. The Medicine Lodge State Park attracts many visitors who enjoy exploring the slope of the Bighorns. Such resources include the Medicine Lodge and Dry Medicine Lodge canyons, Paint Rock Canyon, Trapper Creek and White Creek canyons, Spanish Point ACEC, Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite and the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC, the Hyattville Logging Road, the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Backcountry Byway, prominent wildlife habitat management areas, abundant wildlife and fishing, significant cave and karst resources, highly rated scenic quality and access into the Bighorn National Forest. These resources provide for excellent primitive non-motorized recreation to motorized (touring) recreation.

SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS

SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.

Objective Statement:

Manage the Canyons RMZ as a zone within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed below in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.

Activities:

Hunting, wildlife viewing, fishing, nature viewing, hiking, photography, sightseeing, spelunking.

Experiences:

Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape.

Developing skills and abilities.

Enjoy going exploring on my/our own.

Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.

Enjoying the closeness of family.

Benefits:

Improved mental well-being and physical fitness and health maintenance.

Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance.

Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history.

Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live.

Greater family bonding.

Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability.

Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.

Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.

Physical

Remoteness:

Back to Middle Country.

On land surrounding the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway, Cold Springs Road, Hyattville Logging Road, and the Black Butte road, maintain middle country settings on or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight. Maintain back country settings within the WSAs and canyons.

Naturalness:

Middle/Back Country.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area and primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Maintain primitive naturalness settings for the WSAs and canyons where lands are essentially an unmodified natural environment. Evidence of humans is unnoticed by an observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Primitive/Back Country.

Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes. Maintain primitive settings in the WSAs where trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are extremely rare.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes for the majority of the zone. Usually group size is small. Areas such as Dry Medicine Lodge Canyon, Cold Springs Road, Hyattville Logging Road, and Paint Rock Canyon is middle country where 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes, and 15-29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small to moderate.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle/Back Country.

Maintain Middle country settings along the Cold Springs Road, Black Butte Road, Hyattville Logging Road, and the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway where 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use are acceptable. Maintain Back Country settings within the Spanish Point ACEC where mountain bikes perhaps other mechanized use is allowed, but all travel is non-motorized.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle/Front Country.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails outside the Spanish Point ACEC. Motorized use within the ACEC is strictly prohibited.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Utilize adaptive management techniques to provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits) and reach desired future setting conditions.

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway, Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Area; Trapper Creek, Medicine Lodge, and Alkali Creek WSAs,

the Madison Recharge zone, and caving ethics.

Maintain the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: Monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies), Monitor recreation setting condition through on-site patrols throughout the year.

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas.

Develop new and maintain trailheads for foot and horse travel. Potential locations will include the Webber Canyon area, White Creek, Black Mountain area, Wapiti Ridge Trail, Lone Tree Trail and trailhead, Black Butte, and along the Red Gulch/Alkali Road Back Country Byway. Additional sites may be identified throughout the life of the plan.

Upgrade access route to the Lone Tree trailhead and upgrade the Lone Tree Trail.

Develop hiking trails in the Wet and Dry Medicine Lodge Canyons.

Construct Trailheads to accommodate mountain bike users.

Construct Pull-offs along the Red Gulch/Alkali Road.

Back Country Byway.

Maintain the OHV route between the Medicine Lodge State Park and Cold Springs Road.

Designate motorized touring loops connecting with the Bighorn National Forest, the Canyons RMZ, and the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ, which may include new construction.

Develop campgrounds if needed.

Work with local spelunking community and adjacent land management agencies to maintain cave and karst areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I within the Medicine Lodge, Trapper Creek, and Alkali Creek WSAs. Class II and III for the remainder of RMZ.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails. Off road use within the WSAs is strictly prohibited.

Over-snow travel off of designated routes and ways is strictly prohibited.

All motorized travel is prohibited within the Spanish Point ACEC.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, and camping. Consider acquiring areas such as Horse Mountain, Trapper Creek, and White Creek.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Canyons RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Apply CSU restriction for this zone.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Maintain cooperative agreement with Wyoming State Land Board, and Wyoming State Game and Fish.

Seek other agreements and partnerships as appropriate.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Medicine Lodge State Park, IMBA, surrounding private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>This area exhibits exceptional scenic quality, wildlife resources, and exposed geologic formations. The Hyattville Logging Road is within this area and is proposed to be a backcountry byway for Alternative B. The Logging Road is a popular access point into the Bighorn Mountains. Two other routes, the North and South Brokenback Roads act as very popular access points into the RMZ, as well as the Bighorn National Forest, during the big game hunting seasons. Access into this area is in part due to a coordinated agreement between the Wyoming Game and Fish and surrounding private land holders, as well as a foot/horse trail developed by the BLM so as to access more of this area. This area is a very popular hunting area for both local and visiting hunters.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p> <p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ as a zone within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, driving for pleasure.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoying the closeness of family.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Stronger ties with my family and friends. Greater awareness that the Bighorn Basin is special. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><u>Physical</u></p> <p><u>Remoteness:</u> Middle Country Settings.</p>

On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.

Front Country settings along the Hyattville Logging Road.

On or near improved country roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway.

Naturalness:

Back Country Settings.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Front/Middle Country.

Front Country settings for lands along the South and North Brokenback Roads, and along the Hyattville Logging Road.

Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are back country settings where they are rare and isolated.

Remainder of RMZ is Middle Country.

Primitive motorized and non-motorized trails may exist.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services present but subtle. Minimum amount necessary to achieve planning objectives.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Hyattville/Logging Road Back Country Byway, Carter Access area, and Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Habitat Management Areas.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services for the following areas:

- Trailheads for North and South Brokenback areas, Laddie Creek, and the Hyatteville Logging Road.
- Pull-outs along the Hyatteville Logging Road.
- Improve Salt Lick trail and trailhead.
- Construct additional trailheads and trails on a case-by-case basis or as the needs arise.

Designate motorized touring loops within the Brokenback/Logging road RMZ as well as connecting with the Canyons RMZ and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Continue to implement current South Broken Back Travel Management Plan.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, and camping for areas including but not limited to North and South Brokenback roads, Luman Creek Road, Military Creek Road, Dorn Draw Road.

Lengthen public access duration for the North and South Brokenback roads to yearlong access under terms of the related Travel Management Plan.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Apply a CSU for this zone.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Pursue additional access agreement in the South Brokenback, and North Brokenback areas.

Maintain current easement agreement with local land owners in this zone.

Seek other agreements and partnerships as appropriate.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>West Slope SRMA – Cody Field Office</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The west slope of the Bighorn mountains attracts visitors from the surrounding communities and from outside the region due to the spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, and exposed geologic formations. Nearby attractions which also draw visitors to the area include the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Medicine Wheel on the Bighorn National Forest. Also, some visitors traveling to or from Yellowstone National Park spend time in the area. The SRMA includes the Little Mountain, Five Springs, and Brown/Howe Dinosaur ACECs, several creeks found eligible for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River system, and significant cave and karst resources. The Five Springs Falls Campground and the Cottonwood Creek Trailhead are BLM-managed sites within the SRMA. The west slope of the Bighorns provides important wildlife habitat and access into the Bighorn National Forest. These resources provide for excellent semi-primitive non-motorized recreation to motorized (touring) recreation.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hunting, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, fishing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back, Middle, and Front Country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, photography, sightseeing, driving for pleasure.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Developing skills and abilities. Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoying the closeness of family.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Improved mental well-being and physical fitness and health maintenance. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Positive contributions to local-regional economic stability. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><u>Physical</u> <u>Remoteness:</u> Middle Country. Maintain Middle Country settings on much of the SRMA where lands are on or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p>

Back Country.

Maintain back country settings where lands are more than 0.5 mile from any road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight.

Naturalness:

Back/Middle Country.

Natural setting may have subtle to moderately dominant modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area and primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist.

Facilities and Structures:

Middle Country.

Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes and campsites, and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

Maintain Middle Country settings where 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use are acceptable.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

Signs present at key access points.

Patrolled periodically by law enforcement officer, and other BLM employees. Spike in BLM presence during hunting season.

Some use restrictions, limit motorized travel to designated roads and trails.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, geology, and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, and camp sites.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Signs present to identify roads and provide directions.

Interpretive signs at trailheads, campgrounds, and parking areas.

Develop a recreation site at Rainbow Canyon.

Additional recreational developments may be done throughout the life of the plan, if warranted.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II and III for the SRMA.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

Open to ROWs.

Open to renewable energy development.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, National Park Service, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>South Bighorns ERMA</p>
<p>ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.</p>
<p>The southern Bighorns are popular for visitors to explore, hike, and especially hunt. Outfitters and tour guides enjoy guiding clients here due to the impressive and exceptional scenic qualities, abundant wildlife, and alternative access points onto 33-Mile Road (Hazelton Road) which exhibits exceptional viewing opportunities of the surrounding mountain landscape, the Cloud Peak Wilderness, the Bighorn Basin, and the Powder River Basin to the east; as well as access into the Hole-in-the-Wall region, the Middle Fork of the Powder River, Casper, and the Bighorn National Forest. The South Bighorns contain a rich history including cattle and sheep operations, mining, and infamous outlaws including Billy the Kid. Currently, an impressive coordinated travel management effort improving access into the area as well as improving resource management exists between the BLM, Wyoming State Game and Fish, Wyoming State Land Board, and the Orchard Ranch. A coordinated resource effort once existed between the BLM, Wyoming State Land Board, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, which accomplished recreation, wildlife, and weed management goals. The impressive Deep Creek is a waterway segment identified as eligible and draft suitable for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as well as a sought-after fishery for exceptional fishing and sightseeing opportunities. Due to the amount of and the spatial location of private lands within the Southern Bighorns, the most appropriate recreation management strategy of the area would be under a separate ERMA.</p>
<p>ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION</p>
<p>ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement:</p> <p>Manage the South Bighorns as an ERMA for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, hunting, fishing, and driving for pleasure in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.</p>
<p>ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION</p>
<p>ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Middle Country Settings. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight. Front Country settings along Rome Hill Road, Dry Farm Road, and Hazelton Road. On or near improved country roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country Settings. Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Middle Country. Primitive motorized and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country settings. Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small. Rural settings along Upper Nowood Road where people seem to be everywhere, but human contact remains intermittent.</p>

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Front/Middle Country.

Front Country along Cherry Creek Road, Dry Farm Road, Spring Creek Road, Rome Hill Road, and Hazelton Road.

2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use.

Middle Country for remainder of ERMA.

4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Some onsite visitor orientation (kiosk and trail markers) will be developed, which may include interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, wildlife resources, etc.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character. Work with partners to provide additional interpretation of the historic events and buildings, ranches, and other remnants.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Hazelton Road Back Country Byway, and the Upper Nowood Travel Management Plan.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys, on-site patrols, and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Develop facilities necessary to maximize recreational opportunities at areas such as, but not limited to the Cherry Creek stock driveway crossing of Deep Creek, Otter Creek, and Split Rock.

Develop trailheads for Mahogany Butte, Deep Creek, Upper Nowood areas, and in other areas on a case-by-case basis so as to sustain recreational opportunities, as well as to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and to address resource protection.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage VRM consistent with other resource management objectives.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Continue to implement Upper Nowood Travel Management Plan.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Open to alternative energy development. Co-locate renewable energy ROW authorizations whenever possible.

Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, boating, and camping. Areas to be considered for acquisition include Otter Creek, Deep Creek, Little Canyon Creek, public land tracts along the Nowood River area, Cherry Creek Road to Hazelton Road, Lysite Mountain, land parcels within Spring Creek, and Spring Creek Road to Rome

Hill Road.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the South Bighorns ERMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities.

Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Pursue/revitalize cooperative agreement with Double-H Ranch, Wyoming State Land Board, and Wyoming Game and Fish.

Maintain cooperative agreement with Orchard Ranch, Wyoming State Land Board, and Wyoming Game and Fish.

Seek other agreements and partnerships as appropriate.

Partners:

Including, but not limited to the Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Orchard Ranch, Double-H Ranch, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ten Sleep, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA

SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.

BLM manages a campground along the Middle Fork of the Powder River which is a destination area for visitors from within and outside the region. The Middle Fork of the Powder River is managed as a blue ribbon trout fishery, as well as identified as eligible and draft suitable for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System. The Buffalo Field Office had also identified the Middle Fork of the Powder River within their jurisdiction as eligible for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System. This area has received significant managerial support from both the Worland and Buffalo Field Offices in coordination with the Wyoming State Game and Fish in improving access into the area to support a variety of recreational activities, dominantly hunting and fishing.

SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS

SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.

Objective Statement:

Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River as an SRMA with a destination strategy for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country and Middle Country settings.

Activities:

Fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, photography, nature viewing, general dispersed recreation, Driving for pleasure, snowmobiling, snowshoeing.

Experiences:

- Enjoy going exploring on my/our own.
- Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.
- Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape.
- Enjoying the closeness of family.
- Feeling good about solitude, being isolated, and independent.

Benefits:

- Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance.
- Stronger ties with my family and friends.
- Greater awareness that the Bighorn Basin is special.
- Greater spiritual growth.
- Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live.
- Lifestyle improvement or maintenance.
- Greater family bonding.
- More well-rounded childhood development.
- Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS

Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.

Physical

Remoteness:

Middle Country Settings.

On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.

Front Country settings along Hazelton Road and the Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground.

Naturalness:

Back Country Settings.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Middle Country Settings for lands within the Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground.

Natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations but would not draw the attention of the observers on trail and primitive roads within the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Middle Country.

Primitive motorized and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.

Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground as Front Country.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country settings.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.

Middle country settings along Hazelton Road and Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground. Usually 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas and campgrounds), and 15-29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small to moderate.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Front Country along Hazelton Road.

2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use.

Middle Country for remainder of SRMA.

4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Some onsite visitor orientation (kiosk and trail markers) will be developed. This may include orientation methods such as interpretive signs at trailheads and Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground on history, user ethics, and fish and wildlife resources.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads and trails, trailheads, camp sites, and information regarding the Hazelton Road

Back Country Byway.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys, on-site patrols, and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails or other campgrounds, reevaluating fee structure, etc.

Management

Maintain and improve the Middle Fork of the Powder River campground and associated so as to maximize identified beneficial outcomes.

Develop additional trailheads, campgrounds, or other recreational facilities on a case-by-case basis so as to meet identified beneficial outcomes, recreational setting character conditions, and resource maintenance.

Develop trailhead at the Middle Fork Campground, and in other areas on a case-by-case basis.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for recreation related opportunities. Areas to be considered for acquisition include public land tracts along the Cherry Creek Road to Hazelton Road, and along Hazelton Road.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Middle Fork Powder River SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Apply a CSU stipulation for the Middle Fork Powder River SRMA.

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Pursue MOUs with surrounding land owners, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming Game and Fish, and the Buffalo and

Appendix O – Recreation

Casper BLM Field Offices.

Seek other agreements and partnerships as appropriate.

Partners:

Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Buffalo and Casper BLM Field Offices, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and other sports groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>Canyon Creek SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>Canyon Creek area is located within the southern Bighorns just south of Highway 16, which is a very popular highway over the Bighorn Mountains as well as a popular route to Yellowstone National Park. Canyon Creek exhibits exceptionally high scenic qualities from the exposed dolomite and Ten Sleep formation observed through the impressive canyon complemented by the perennial Canyon Creek which supports a blue-ribbon fishery and a healthy riparian zone through the canyon. A subdivision (Canyon Creek Village) is growing south of the area in which residents enjoy exploring, hiking, hunting, and fishing Canyon Creek. Canyon Valley Resort is located within the area which provides recreational opportunities such as guiding services for visitors, big game outfitting, and golfing opportunities. The scenic qualities as well as the wildlife resources establish the foundation for the tourism market in this area. Smilo Road (BLM Road 1416) provides access into BLM-administered public lands east of Canyon Creek as well as the Bighorn National Forest.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p> <p>Objective Statement: Manage the Canyon Creek SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, fishing, nature viewing, and wildlife viewing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Back Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Fishing, hunting, hiking, nature viewing, wildlife viewing.</p> <p>Experiences: Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Develop skills and abilities. Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes. Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved mental well-being. Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><u>Physical</u> Remoteness: Back Country. More than 0.5 mile from any road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight. Smilo Road, the access route to</p>

the Canyon Creek fishing access parking area, and few other two-tracks are observed along the edges of the area.

Naturalness:

Back Country.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Trails may exist but do not exceed standard to carry expected use. Facilities and structures are rare and isolated.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country settings.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back Country.

Mountain bikes perhaps other mechanize use but all is non-motorized. Smilo Road will remain open to motorized access into area.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on history, user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, geology, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails, and camp sites.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: Monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies), Monitor recreation setting condition through on-site patrols.

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

Management

Utilize adaptive management techniques to provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits) and reach desired future setting conditions.

Develop looping hiking trails in Canyon Creek, and off of Smilo Road.

Develop trailheads at Canyon Creek and Smilo Road.

Some onsite visitor orientation (kiosk and trail markers) will be developed.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Acquire legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Canyon Creek SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Apply a CSU stipulation.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Agreements:

Pursue a cooperative agreement with the Canyon Creek Estates.

Seek other agreements and partnerships as appropriate.

Partners:

Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Canyon Creek Estates, community of Ten Sleep, Back Country Horsemen, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>Red Canyon Creek ERMA</p>
<p>ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.</p>
<p>Red Canyon Creek is located along the slopes of the Owl Creek Mountains outside the community of Thermopolis. This area exhibits high scenic qualities, wildlife resources, and opportunities for primitive-type recreation. A subdivision is growing on the north side of the area, which the adjacent BLM-administered public lands provides for easy-to-access public lands for the local residents. The community of Thermopolis has been marketing its natural recreational resources (most especially its thermal resources located within the very popular Hot Springs State Park), as well as prioritizing primitive-type recreational opportunities such as hiking, and horseback riding within the State Park. Other uses exist within and around the area such as livestock grazing, and mineral development. Legal public access into the area is questionable, and there are private surface land parcels within the area.</p>
<p>ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION</p>
<p>ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement:</p> <p>Manage the Red Canyon Creek ERMA to maintain a back country setting, to address public health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection. In addition, recreation management within the ERMA will manage for motorized and non-motorized recreationists to engage in hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing.</p>
<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USE DECISIONS</p>
<p>Identify management action and allowable use decisions for R&VS and other programs necessary to: facilitate visitor participation in the identified outdoor recreation activities; maintain particular recreation setting characteristics; address visitor health and safety, resource protection, and use and user conflicts; and, address the type(s), activities, and locations where special recreation permits would or would not be issued.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Back Country. Most of the SRMA is more than 0.5 mile from any road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight. Access routes (two-tracks and improved route) exist along the fringe of the SRMA, as well as within parcels of private lands within the area.</p> <p>Naturalness: Back Country. Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Back Country. Primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country. Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Back Country. Manage the SRMA for mountain bikes perhaps other mechanized use but all is non-motorized. The fringes will be managed for 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use so as to maintain current land uses.</p>

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop visitor orientation signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, designated motorized routes, trails, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, geology, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and on-site patrols.

Monitor for resource degradation, user conflicts, health and safety, and prescribed settings.

Management

Develop hiking trail to Red Canyon Creek.

Develop trailheads at northern access point.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the ERMA.

Interpretive signs and visitor orientation materials at trailheads and parking areas.

Engage local community, businesses, and other partners in the development and distribution of a brochure and/or area guide book.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage VRM consistent with other resource management objectives.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

All motorized use (including over-snow travel) is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Red Canyon Creek ERMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

On a case-by-case basis, allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis, open Red Canyon Creek area to appropriations under the mining laws, and authorize mineral material sales and/or free use permits; apply mitigation through activity level planning.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Community of Thermopolis, Hot Springs State Park, Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, private land owners, Back Country Horsemen, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>The Rivers SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The Rivers destination SRMA is made up of BLM-managed public lands on the North and South Forks of the Shoshone River, the main stem of the Shoshone River, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. These rivers are very popular for fishing, floating, sightseeing, and hunting and are used by local residents as well as visitors from throughout the nation and from foreign countries. Many visitors traveling to or from Yellowstone National Park spend time in Cody. Several companies offer commercial fishing or floating trips on these rivers. BLM and the WGFD have an agreement which recognizes the high recreational value of various tracts of land along these rivers and provides for cooperative efforts to develop access and manage the sites. Many sites have been developed over the years. Several of the river access sites also serve as trailheads for hiking and horseback access to the Shoshone National Forest. In addition, there are access sites which have been developed by other parties. The North Fork of the Shoshone River and portions of the Shoshone River are considered blue-ribbon trout fisheries.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u></p> <p>Manage the Rivers SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities such as fishing, floating, photography, hunting, hiking, and nature viewing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural, front, and middle country settings.</p>
<p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>Fishing, floating, sightseeing, hunting, photography, and nature viewing.</p>
<p><u>Experiences:</u></p> <p>Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Enjoy the closeness of family. Experiencing a greater sense of independence. Testing endurance. Enjoy risk taking adventure.</p>
<p><u>Benefits:</u></p> <p>Improved mental well-being. Closer relationship with the natural world. Enhanced sense of personal freedom. Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved skills for outdoor enjoyment. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Greater family bonding. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Increased local job opportunities. Increased local tourism revenue. Improved local economic stability.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Rural Country. On or near primary highways, but still within a rural area. Front Country. On or near improved county roads, but at least 0.5 mile from any highway. Middle Country. On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least ½ mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight.</p> <p>Naturalness: Rural, Front, and Middle Country. Natural setting is culturally modified to the point that it is dominant to the sensitive travel route observer in some locations. In other locations, natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations but would not draw the attention of the observers on trails and primitive roads within the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Rural and Front Country. Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Front Country setting. Usually up to 29 encounters/day off travel routes and 30 or more encounters/day en route. Group size varies from small to large. Visitor encounters can be high during peak use periods at the major boat ramps.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Front Country. Manage the majority of the river tracts for a Front Country setting where 2-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drive vehicles and non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Front Country. On site controls and services are present but harmonize with the natural environment. Personnel periodic.</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<u>Information and Education</u>
<p>Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs. Use information and interpretation to lessen visitor conflicts, resource impacts, and to increase visitor awareness of wildlife habitat and wetland management.</p> <p>Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.</p> <p>Provide for a map with designated roads, boat ramps, hazards, and BLM-administered public land tracts.</p> <p>Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!</p> <p>Work closely with the gateway communities of Cody, Powell, Thermopolis, Worland, Basin, Lovell, and Greybull, and other partners in the region in marketing and outreach.</p>

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other river segments, institute fee areas, or limit river use.

Management

Continue to provide for experiences and associated facilities with an emphasis on maintaining rural to front country recreation settings.

Continue to provide opportunities that contribute to meeting recreation demand while protecting resources.

In cooperation with WGFD and other partners, provide and maintain visitor facilities, services, signing, and programs.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II and Class III.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use is limited to designated roads and trails for the North and South Forks of the Shoshone River and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and is limited to existing roads and trails for the Shoshone River area.

Lands and Realty:

Manage lands within one mile of the Shoshone and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as avoidance areas for construction of above ground power lines except in designated utility corridors.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Retain recreational access to the North and South Forks of the Shoshone, the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers plus increase emphasis on float access and facilities where appropriate.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) within campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, river access sites, and similar recreational sites and trails within The Rivers SRMA.

Apply an NSO restriction on areas within ¼ mile of campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, river access sites, and similar recreational sites within The Rivers SRMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Communities of Cody, Powell, Lovell, Wyoming Game and Fish, Trout Unlimited, Shoshone Back Country Horsemen, Shoshone National Forest, Park County Recreation Board, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

On site controls and services are present but harmonize with the natural environment.

<p>McCullough Peaks SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The McCullough Peaks SRMA lies east of Cody and north of U.S. Highway 14/16/20. This scenic, popular area is used by residents of Cody, Powell, Park and Big Horn Counties for uses such as viewing wild horses, sightseeing, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, photography, driving for pleasure (including ATVs and motorcycles), and wildlife viewing. Colorful badlands provide excellent photographic opportunities. Tourists traveling to or from Yellowstone National Park also use the area. Several commercial permittees provide wild horse viewing tours or interpretive tours in the area. The McCullough Peaks WSA lies within the SRMA as does the McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p><u>Objective Statement:</u> Manage the McCullough Peaks SRMA for motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities such as wildlife and wild horse viewing, nature viewing, horseback riding, hunting, and hiking so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural, front, middle and back country settings.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> Viewing wild horses and wildlife, sightseeing, hunting, mountain biking, hiking, photography, driving for pleasure, horseback riding.</p> <p><u>Experiences:</u> Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Learn. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoy the closeness of family. Learning more about things here. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p><u>Benefits:</u> Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>

RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS
Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Rural, Front, Middle, and Back Country. The eastern and southern boundaries lie along major highways. There are several BLM roads and numerous two-tracks and ATV trails in the SRMA area.</p> <p>Naturalness: Front and Middle Country. Natural setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area but not draw the attention of observers on trails and primitive routes. Back Country. Natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.</p> <p>Facilities and Structures: Rural and Front Country. Primitive and improved motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters. Middle Country. Primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.</p> <p><u>Social</u></p> <p>Contacts and Group Size: Back Country settings. Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes and up to 15 encounters/day on travel routes. Usually group size is small. Middle Country settings. Usually up to 14 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect back country definition.</p> <p><u>Operational</u></p> <p>Mechanized Use: Front and Middle Country. Manage the SRMA for 2-wheel drive and 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes and non-motorized mechanized use.</p> <p>Management Controls and Visitor Services: Middle Country. On site controls and services are present but subtle. Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.</p>
IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS
Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.
<u>Information and Education</u>
<p>Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.</p> <p>Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.</p> <p>Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails.</p> <p>Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!</p>

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Work with partners and other interested publics to determine road and trail maintenance and construction needs, signing needs, and access points.

Work with volunteers to develop and maintain limited facilities, as needed, in the area.

Signs present at key access points and to identify such items as travel routes, the WSA boundary, and the herd area boundary.

Interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas, where appropriate.

Provide opportunities for the public to view wild horses in the McCullough Peaks HMA.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class I in the McCullough Peaks WSA and Class II elsewhere in the SRMA.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the entire SRMA.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Closed to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

No leasing within the McCullough Peaks WSA and NSO elsewhere in the SRMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Prohibit organized SRPs using domestic horses in the McCullough Peaks HMA.

Partners:

City of Cody; Park County Recreation Board; private landowners; local mountain biking, hiking, equestrian, and motorized groups, FOAL, Wyoming State Trails Program, and other interested groups.

<p>Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>This area is located between the Communities of Greybull and Basin, Wyoming. This area is currently being used for off-road hill climbs used by both ATVs and motorcycles, dominantly motorcycles. Visitors are from within the communities, as well as from outside the area, particularly Billings, Montana. The area is composed of bentonite and mostly devoid of vegetation. The Basin Gardens area provides for exceptional motorized hill climbing opportunities ranging from novice riders to very challenging climbs for the experienced riders. The communities from RMP Scoping opportunities had identified this area as highly desired for motorized recreational opportunities.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA for motorized recreationists to engage in ATV, motorbike, and other motorized hill climbing activities so that visitors report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these Front Country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Driving for pleasure, motorcycle hill climbing.</p> <p>Experiences: Developing skills and abilities. Enjoying risk-taking adventure. Being around people I know and enjoy.</p> <p>Benefits: Improved physical fitness and health maintenance. Improved outdoor recreation skills. Enhanced sense of personal freedom. More well-rounded childhood development. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Improved local economic stability. Increased local tourism revenue. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Front Country. The RMZ is surrounded by county roads, and displays tracks from heavy off-road use.</p> <p>Naturalness: Front Country.</p>

The area’s natural setting from the intense off-road use may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area. These alterations would remain unnoticed or visually subordinate from sensitive travel routes (Highway 16, 20) and use areas.

Facilities and Structures:

Front Country.

Primitive and improved routes/trails may exist. Facilities and structures are scattered.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Middle Country settings.

Usually 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas), and 15-29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small to moderate.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Front Country.

On site controls and services are present but harmonize with the natural environment.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Ensure targeted experiences and benefits is included and explained in all visitor information.

Engage local sporting good businesses and other partners in the development and distribution of a brochure and/or area guide book.

Some onsite visitor orientation (kiosk and trail markers) will be developed. Orientation materials will include a map with designated routes/areas, trailheads, docking stations, and designated areas tailored for different degrees of riding experience (novice areas to experienced areas).

Make available for special educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: Monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies).

Monitor recreation setting condition through on-site patrols.

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails or areas or limiting carrying capacity at trailheads.

Management

Utilize adaptive management techniques to provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits) and reach desired future setting conditions.

Develop areas for novice riders to highly experienced riders.

Develop trailheads containing loading dock stations, kiosks, comfort stations, and adequate parking.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage visual resource objectives according to adjacent resource program prescriptions.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use open to off-road/cross-country use.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA.

Avoid mineral material disposals in the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Apply a CSU restriction for the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding communities including but not limited to Greybull, Basin, Manderson, and Worland, Wyoming State Trails Program, surrounding private land owners, NOHVCC, Sagehoppers, and other interested groups and OHV clubs.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

No glass containers and pallets (burning, etc.) allowed.

Noise constraints are enforceable via 43 CFR 8343.1.

<p>Rattlesnake Ridge ERMA</p>
<p>ERMAs are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.</p>
<p>This area is located approximately 4 miles east of Worland, Wyoming. This area is currently being used for off-road hill climbs used by both ATVs and motorcycles, dominantly motorcycles; as well as oil and gas extraction activities, ROW projects including radio signal towers, and grazing. Most of the visitors are from within the Worland area, as well as from other areas outside of the Worland area, most especially from Thermopolis, Wyoming. The area is heavily used by motorized use enthusiasts, and is mostly devoid of vegetation. The Rattlesnake Ridge area provides for exceptional motorized hill climbing opportunities ranging from novice riders to very challenging climbs for the experienced riders. In addition, the surrounding communities had identified this area as highly desirable for motorized recreational opportunities during the RMP Scoping meetings. The other uses within the area expose visitors to potential health risks from elements such as hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), and active oil and gas extraction activities. Conflicts between users have been an issue and interim management between the oil and gas companies and recreationists has been established in this area, but without significant BLM management guidance.</p>
<p>ERMA OBJECTIVE(S) DECISION</p>
<p>ERMA objectives must define the recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions which become the focus for R&VS management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Rattlesnake Ridge ERMA for motorized recreationists to safely engage in ATV, motorbike, and other motorized hill climbing activities with a priority in addressing use and user conflicts, public health and safety, resource protection, and to maintain these front country to rural settings.</p>
<p>MANAGEMENT ACTIONS & ALLOWABLE USE DECISIONS</p>
<p>Identify management action and allowable use decisions for R&VS and other programs necessary to: facilitate visitor participation in the identified outdoor recreation activities; maintain particular recreation setting characteristics; address visitor health and safety, resource protection, and use and user conflicts; and, address the type(s), activities, and locations where special recreation permits would or would not be issued.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u> Remoteness: Rural Country. The RMZ is surrounded by county roads, and displays tracks from heavy off-road use. The area is on or near primary highways, but still within a rural area. Naturalness: Rural Country. The area’s natural setting from the intense off-road use as well as the industrial activities is culturally modified to the point that it is dominant to the sensitive travel route observer, Pedestrians or other slow moving observers are constantly within view of culturally changed landscape. Facilities and Structures: Rural Country. Paved, improved, and/or primitive roads/highways dominate the landscape. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.</p>
<p><u>Social</u> Contacts and Group Size: Middle Country settings. Usually 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas), and 15-29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small to moderate.</p>
<p><u>Operational</u> Mechanized Use: Middle Country.</p>

4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Rural Country.

On site controls and services are obvious and numerous. Largely harmonize with the man-made environment (dominantly from the oil and gas extraction activities and the ROW projects).

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop visitor orientation signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, other important land uses within the area, and user safety.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated routes, trailheads, docking stations, designated areas tailored for different degrees of riding experience (novice areas to experienced areas).

Make available for special educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: Monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies).

Monitor recreation setting condition through on-site patrols.

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails or areas or limiting carrying capacity at trailheads.

Management

Develop areas for novice riders to highly experienced riders with coordinated effort through other entities such as local OHV groups, and onsite oil and gas companies.

Develop trailheads containing loading dock stations, kiosks, comfort stations, and adequate parking.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the ERMA.

Visitor orientation materials (kiosks and signs) at trailheads and parking areas.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage visual resources according to other adjacent resource program prescriptions.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use limited to existing roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

Open to all ROW (including alternative energy realty actions).

Pursue legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities.

Minerals:

Open to oil and gas, to mineral entry and, other mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities.

(including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife)

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Surrounding communities including but not limited to Worland, Thermopolis, Manderson, Basin, and Greybull; Wyoming State Trails Program, surrounding land users and industries, NOHVCC, Sagehoppers, and other interested groups and OHV clubs.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

Glass containers and pallets are prohibited.

<p>Horse Pasture SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>The Horse Pasture SRMA is 144 acres of BLM-administered public land nestled along the foothills of Rattlesnake Ridge and surrounded by agriculture uses. This area was once used as an oil and gas staging area, complete with residential buildings. Currently, in coordination with Devon Energy Corporation, the BLM is in the process of reclaiming the area to pre-development landscape. The area is used by the community of Worland for uses such as walking, hunting (bird and big game), and nature viewing.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement:</p> <p>Manage the Horse Pasture SRMA for non-motorized recreationists to engage in photography, hunting, nature viewing, and sightseeing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these back to middle country settings.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, photography, hunting (bird and big game), dog interaction (walking, training, hunting, etc.).</p> <p>Experiences:</p> <p>Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Learn. Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape. Enjoy the closeness of family. Learning more about things here. Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness:</p> <p>Front Country.</p> <p>The south boundary is along an improved road used for agricultural purpose. Some primitive routes exist within the area</p>

from past management. Within the SRMA, the desired remoteness setting will be middle country, the edge will, by default, be front country.

Naturalness:

Back Country.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications but not draw the attention of the casual observer wandering through the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Back Country.

Primitive motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are rare and often accessible via unimproved routes.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Back Country.

Usually up to 6 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 15 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small. Most of the time, social settings will reflect primitive definition.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Back Country.

Manage the SRMA for mountain bikes perhaps other mechanized use but all is non-motorized. The fringes will be managed for 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized mechanized use so as to maintain current land uses.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Back Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs and visitor orientation materials at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: Monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies), Monitor recreation setting condition through on-site patrols.

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

Management

Utilize adaptive management techniques to provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits) and reach desired future setting conditions.

If need arrives, develop interpretive/historic nature trail within the Horse Pasture.

Develop trailhead at western edge of SRMA. Facilities will include, but not limited to visitor orientation materials, adequate parking, comfort station, and other necessary facilities identified throughout the life of the plan.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA, with exception to nature trail.

Interpretive signs at trailhead, and along trail.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized use within the SRMA is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

ROW avoidance area.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Minerals:

Do not pursue withdraw from appropriation under the mining laws for lands within the Horse Pasture SRMA.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Avoid surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and developments, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).

Apply a CSU stipulation for the Horse Pasture SRMA.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

Community of Worland, Wyoming State Trails Program, Wyoming Game and Fish, Devon Energy Corporation, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>Beck Lake Area SRMA</p>
<p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p>
<p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p>
<p>The Beck Lake Area SRMA contains about 6,473 acres of BLM-administered public land south of Beck Lake. The area is used by residents of Cody and Park County for uses such as mountain biking, hiking, hunting, driving for pleasure, and wildlife viewing. The City of Cody is seeking an R&PP lease for land in the northern portion of the SRMA. That land would complement the recreation facilities the City manages at Beck Lake Park. Management of the R&PP area would be governed by agreement(s) and operating plan(s) associated with its R&PP status.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p>
<p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement: Manage the Beck Lake Area community SRMA for non-motorized and motorized recreationists to engage in mountain biking, hiking, photography, wildlife viewing, driving for pleasure, and sightseeing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural and front country settings.</p> <p>Activities: Mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, photography, hunting, driving for pleasure, dog interaction (walking, training, hunting, etc.).</p> <p>Experiences: Enjoy going exploring on my/our own. Learn. Enjoy the closeness of family. Learning more about things here.</p> <p>Benefits: Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature. Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance. Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history. Improved mental well-being. Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live. Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. Increased desirability as a place to live or retire. Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p>
<p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness: Rural and Front Country. A major highway lies along the eastern boundary of the SRMA. Numerous primitive and developed roads lie within the area.</p>

Naturalness:

Rural to Front Country.

Natural setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within the area.

Facilities and Structures:

Rural and Front Country.

Primitive and improved motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Middle Country settings.

Usually up to 14 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 29 encounters/day en route. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

Manage the SRMA for non-motorized mechanized use as well as 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs and dirt bikes.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated routes, trailheads, trails.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Work with partners and other interested publics to determine trail maintenance and construction needs, signing needs, and access points.

Work with volunteers to develop and maintain limited facilities, as needed, in the area.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailhead.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Manage VRM consistent with other resource objectives.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

Open to ROWs.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities on a case-by-case basis.

Open to oil and gas leasing with a CSU restriction.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property.

The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

City of Cody, Park County Recreation Board, private landowners, local mountain biking and hiking groups, local motorized groups, Wyoming State Trails Program, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

<p>Newton Lake Ridge SRMA</p> <p>SRMAs are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness; especially compared to other areas used for recreation. For each SRMA: establish objective decisions, describe recreation setting characteristics, identify management actions and allowable use decisions and, if necessary, identify implementation decisions.</p>
<p>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</p> <p>Briefly describe the rationale for designating the SRMA including the unique value, importance or distinctiveness of the area. This documents the rationale for consideration of the SRMA in the planning process and, if selected, designation of the SRMA in the record of decision.</p> <p>The Newton Lake Ridge SRMA contains about 1,949 acres of BLM-administered public land north of Newton Lakes. The area is used by residents of Cody and Park County for uses such as mountain biking, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing.</p>
<p>SRMA/RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ) OBJECTIVE(S) DECISIONS</p> <p>SRMAs may be subdivided into RMZs with discrete objectives. SRMA/RMZ objectives must define the specific recreation opportunities (i.e., activities, experiences and benefits derived from those experiences) which become the focus of Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) management.</p>
<p>Objective Statement:</p> <p>Manage the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA for non-motorized and motorized recreationists to engage in mountain biking, hiking, photography, hunting, wildlife viewing, and sightseeing so that they report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes in these rural, front, and middle country settings.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, photography, hunting.</p> <p>Experiences:</p> <p>Enjoy going exploring on my/our own.</p> <p>Learn.</p> <p>Savoring the total sensory – sight, sound, and smell – experience of a natural landscape.</p> <p>Enjoy the closeness of family.</p> <p>Learning more about things here.</p> <p>Enjoy having easy access to natural landscapes.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature.</p> <p>Greater sensitivity to/awareness of outdoor aesthetics, nature’s art and its elegance.</p> <p>Increased appreciation of area’s cultural history.</p> <p>Improved mental well-being.</p> <p>Heightened sense of satisfaction with our area as a place to live.</p> <p>Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions.</p> <p>Increased desirability as a place to live or retire.</p> <p>Maintenance of community’s distinctive recreation/tourism market niche or character.</p>
<p>RECREATION SETTING CHARACTERISTIC (RSC) DESCRIPTIONS</p> <p>Describe the physical, social and operational recreation setting qualities to be maintained or enhanced.</p>
<p><u>Physical</u></p> <p>Remoteness:</p> <p>Rural, Front, and Middle Country.</p> <p>The northeastern boundary is along a major highway. Several short, primitive routes occur within the SRMA.</p> <p>Naturalness:</p> <p>Front and Middle Country.</p> <p>Natural setting may have modifications which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant to observers within</p>

the area but not draw the attention of observers on trails and primitive routes.

Facilities and Structures:

Rural and Front Country.

Primitive and improved motorized routes and non-motorized trails may exist. Facilities and structures are readily apparent and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.

Social

Contacts and Group Size:

Middle Country settings.

Usually up to 14 encounters/day off travel routes, and up to 29 encounters/day on trails. Usually group size is small.

Operational

Mechanized Use:

Middle Country.

Manage the SRMA for 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, and dirt bikes in addition to non-motorized mechanized use.

Management Controls and Visitor Services:

Middle Country.

On site controls and services are present but subtle.

Personnel periodic. Rules clearly posted with some restrictions. Periodic enforcement, with an increase in BLM presence during big game hunting season.

IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS

Implementation decisions are actions to achieve or implement land use plan decisions. Implementation decisions include: management, administration, information and education and monitoring.

Information and Education

Develop interpretive signs at trailheads and parking areas on user ethics, non-native invasive weed species found within the area, history, hunting, and other current resource programs.

Provide stewardship information to help preserve the special landscape character.

Provide for a map with designated roads, trailheads, trails.

Make available for special outdoor educational programs such as CORE and Take it Outside!

Monitoring

Vehicle counters with routine surveys and observation.

Visitor reports of crowding.

Informal visitor surveys and formal focus groups as funding allow.

If trends show that use is over acceptable limits, additional action may be considered, such as encouraging use on other trails.

Management

Work with partners and other interested publics to determine trail maintenance and construction needs, signing needs, and access points.

Work with volunteers to develop and maintain limited facilities, as needed, in the area.

Signs present at key access points, but limited within the SRMA.

Interpretive signs at trailhead.

Administrative

Visual Resource Management:

Class II.

Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management:

Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails.

Lands and Realty:

Open to ROWs.

Alternative energy avoidance area for realty actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface-Disturbing Activities:

Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities on a case-by-case basis.

Open to oil and gas leasing with a CSU restriction.

Special Recreation Permits:

SRPs will be issued as a discretionary action. Issue SRPs for a wide variety of uses, that are consistent with resource/program objectives, and within budgetary/workload constraints.

Cost recovery procedures for issuing SRPs would be applied where appropriate.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on available SRPs may be developed and implemented.

If circumstances warrant, limitations on SRP group numbers may be developed and implemented.

To assist in the determination of whether an organized group activity or event would require an SRP, factors such as the following may be considered: resource concerns, user conflicts, need for monitoring, health and safety concerns, risk of damage to federal facilities or property. The following guidelines will be used in determining SRP status:

1-15 participants –

No SRP required, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

16-30 participants –

Letter of Agreement, unless otherwise determined that an SRP will be needed.

Over 30 participants –

SRP required.

Partners:

City of Cody, Park County Recreation Board, private landowners, local mountain biking and hiking groups, Wyoming State Trails Program, and other interested groups.

Other Administration:

Limit the use of signing or other administrative controls unless and until monitoring supports an increase in education, signing, or enforcement to meet public recreation objectives for the area.

2.0 RECREATION MANAGEMENT MATRICES

The matrices that follow show recreation management areas across the Planning Area, as well as the management of key types of resource uses (e.g., ROWs and travel management) in these areas. To allow comparability across the alternatives, management is shown for the same areas under each alternative, regardless of whether that area is a distinct recreation management area (i.e., SRMA, RMZ, or separate ERMA) or is only managed as part of a larger ERMA.

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Alternative A Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management			NOTES	
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing		Open
Absaroka Foothills		■	■			72,130	□	See Notes	See Notes			■	■		■	■	■			■			NSO-Portions of the area are NSO. Mineral Withdrawal-Mineral entry requires a Plan of Operations. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Bighorn River	■	■	■			15,256	■	■	□	□		■		□	□	□			□	□			Other Surface-disturbing Activities-closed on a case-by-case basis. ROW-SRMA contains both ROW exclusion and avoidance areas. VRM-Class II, III, IV in BLM Cody Filed Office, Class II and III in BLM Worland Field Office. Travel-Limited to Designated in BLM Cody Field Office, Limited to Designated and Existing in BLM Worland Field Office.
Badlands		■	■			213,981	See Notes		See Notes			■			■	■	■				■		NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Tour De Badlands		■	□				See Notes		See Notes		■	■		■	■	■					■		Type-Within Badlands SRMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Wild Badlands		■	□														■	■					Management discussed in WSA section. Type-Within Badlands SRMA.
Tatman Mountain		■	□				See Notes		See Notes		■	■		■	■						■		Type-Within Badlands SRMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
West Slope	■	■	■			375,888	□		□	□	□	■		■	■	■				■			Management discussion for Five Springs Falls ACEC in ACEC section. NSO-Five Springs Falls Campgrounds and known Caves. ROW-Avoidance areas exist along West Slope, remainder is open. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Trapper Creek		■	□				See Notes	See Notes	See Notes		■	■		■	■	■	□			■			Type-Within West Slope of Bighorn Mountains SRMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis. VRM-Trapper and Alkali Creek WSAs within the Trapper Creek area are managed under Class I objectives.

Alternative A Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management			NOTES	
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing		Open
Paint Rock		■	□				See Notes		See Notes		■	■		■	■	■	□	□	■				Type-Within West Slope of Bighorn Mountains SRMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis. VRM-Medicine Lodge WSA within the Trapper Creek area are managed under Class I objectives. Travel Management-Spanish Point Karst ACEC within the Paint Rock area is closed to motorized travel.
Brokenback/ Logging Road Area		■	□				See Notes		See Notes		■	■		■	■	■			■				Type-Within the boundaries of the existing West Slope of Bighorn Mountains SRMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
South Bighorns		■	□				See Notes		See Notes		■	■		■	■	■			■				Type-Within the boundaries of the existing West Slope of Bighorn Mountains SRMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Canyon Creek		■	□				□		See Notes		■	■		■	■	■			■				Type-Contained within West Slope of Bighorns SRMA. NSO-Apply an NSO and review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Red Canyon Creek		■			□		See Notes		See Notes		■	■				■			■				Type-Within Worland Field Office ERMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
The Rivers Area	■		■			18,247	□		■		■	■			■	■			□	□			NSO-WGFD/BLM access areas on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the N and S Forks of the Shoshone Rivers. VRM-VRM Class II objectives (North and South Forks of the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers) and managed for VRM Class III objectives (Shoshone River). Travel-Limited to Designated (North and South Forks of the Shoshone and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River), Limited to Existing (Shoshone River area).
Historic Trails	■		■			12,065																	Management discussed in Cultural Resources and NHTs.
Worland Caves	■		■			No defined acres																	Management discussed in Cave and Karst Resources.

Alternative A Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management			NOTES
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	
McCullough Peaks	■				□			See Notes			■	■		■	■	■	□		□	□		<p>Type-Within Cody Field Office ERMA.</p> <p>Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Travel-Limited to Designated in a portion and Limited to Existing in the remainder.</p> <p>Note-Refer to the Wilderness Study Areas section of Table 2-9 for management of the McCullough Peaks WSA.</p> <p>VRM-McCullough Peaks WSA within the McCullough Peaks area is managed under Class I objectives.</p>
Basin Garden		■			□																	Type-Within Worland Field Office ERMA.
Basin Gardens Play Area		■			□		See Notes	See Notes		■	■			■	■					■		<p>Type-Within Worland Field Office ERMA.</p> <p>NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.</p> <p>Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Basin Gardens		■			□		See Notes	See Notes		■	■			■	■					■		<p>Type-Within Worland Field Office ERMA.</p> <p>NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.</p> <p>Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Horse Pasture		■			□		See Notes	See Notes			■	■			■					■		<p>Type-Within Worland Field Office ERMA.</p> <p>NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.</p> <p>Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Rattlesnake Ridge		■																		■		Note -Rattlesnake Ridge area is managed consistent with management of other resource programs.
Beck Lake	■				□			See Notes			■	■			■					■		<p>Type-Within Cody Field Office ERMA.</p> <p>Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Newton Lake Ridge	■				□			□			■	■			■				□	□		<p>Type-Within Cody Field Office ERMA.</p> <p>Travel-Limited to Existing in portions, Limited to Designated in remainder.</p> <p>Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.</p>

Alternative A Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management				NOTES
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	Open	

¹Cody Field Office

²Worland Field Office

³Geophysical, Salables

⁴Under existing management, areas not managed as Special Recreation Management Areas in the BLM Cody Field Office are managed as part of the Cody Extensive Recreation Management Area; in the BLM Worland Field Office, these areas are managed as part of the Worland Extensive Recreation Management Area.

- ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- C Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office
- CSU Controlled surface use
- ERMA Extensive Recreation Management Area
- NHT National Historic Trail
- NSO No surface occupancy
- R&PP Recreation and Public Purposes
- RMZ Recreation Management Zone
- ROW Rights-of-Way
- SRMA Special Recreation Management Area
- VRM Visual Resource Management
- W Bureau of Land Management Worland Field Office
- WSA Wilderness Study Area

Alternatives B and E Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management				NOTES
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	Open	
Absaroka Foothills		■	■			72,130	■	■	■		■					■			■				ROW-Avoidance/mitigation area except to provide access to private property or demonstrated need; evaluate existing ROWs on a case-by-case-basis at renewal.
Bighorn River	■	■	■			15,113	■	■	■	■			■			■			■				
Badlands		■	■			220,687																	
Tour De Badlands		■		■		122,616	■	■	■		■					■			■				
Wild Badlands		■		■		51,158											■	■					Management discussed in WSA section.
Tatman Mountain		■		■		46,912	■	■	■		■					■			■				
West Slope	■	■	■			406,309	□	■	■	■		■				■			■				Management of Five Springs Falls ACEC discussed in ACEC section. NSO-for portions of the West Slope SRMA.
Trapper Creek		■		■		83,806	■	■	■		■					■	□		■				VRM-Trapper and Alkali Creek WSAs within the Trapper Creek area are managed under Class I objectives.
Paint Rock		■		■		45,017	■	■	■		■					■	□	□	■				VRM-Medicine Lodge WSA within the Trapper Creek area are managed under Class I objectives. Travel Management-Spanish Point Karst ACEC within the Paint Rock area is closed to motorized travel.
Brokenback/ Logging Road Area		■		■		63,725	■	■	■		■		■			■			■				
South Bighorns		■		■		83,991	■	■	■		■					■			■				
Canyon Creek		■	■			3,677	■	■	■		■					■			■				
Red Canyon Creek		■	■			8,435	■	■	■		■					■			■				
The Rivers Area	■		■			18,247	□		■		■					■			□	□			NSO-WGFD/BLM access areas on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the N and S Forks of the Shoshone Rivers. Travel-Limited to Designated (North and South Forks of the Shoshone and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River), Limited to Existing (Shoshone River area).
Historic Trails	■																						Management discussed under Cultural Resources and NHTs.
Worland Caves	■				■	No defined acres																	Management discussed under Cave and Karst Resources.
McCullough Peaks	■		■			160,838	■	■	■		■					■	□		■				Note-Refer to the Wilderness Study Areas section of Table 2-9 for management of the McCullough Peaks WSA. VRM-McCullough Peaks WSA within the McCullough Peaks SRMA is managed under Class I objectives.

Alternatives B and E Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management				NOTES
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	Open	
Basin Garden		■	■			19,771																	
<i>Basin Gardens Play Area</i>		■		■		1,821	■	■	■		■				■							■	
<i>Basin Gardens</i>		■		■		17,949	■	■	■		■				■				■				
Horse Pasture		■	■			144	■	■	■	■		■				■		■					
Rattlesnake Ridge		■																		■			Note -Rattlesnake Ridge area is managed consistent with other resource programs.
Beck Lake	■		■			6,483	■	■	■		■					■		■					
Newton Lake Ridge	■		■			1,997	■	■	■		■					■		■					

¹Cody Field Office

²Worland Field Office

³Geophysical, Salables

- ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- C Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office
- CSU Controlled surface use
- ERMA Extensive Recreation Management Area
- NHT National Historic Trail
- NSO No surface occupancy
- R&PP Recreation and Public Purposes
- RMZ Recreation Management Zone
- ROW Rights-of-Way
- SRMA Special Recreation Management Area
- VRM Visual Resource Management
- W Bureau of Land Management Worland Field Office
- WSA Wilderness Study Area

Alternative C Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management			NOTES	
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing		Open
Absaroka Foothills		■									■	■		■	■	■				■			
Bighorn River	■	■									■	■		□	□	□				■			VRM-Class II-IV in BLM Cody Field Office; Class II, III in BLM Worland Field Office.
Badlands		■																					
Tour De Badlands		■									■	■		■	■	■				■			
Wild Badlands		■															■		□				Management discussed in WSA section.
Tatman Mountain		■									■	■		■	■					■			
West Slope	■	■									■	■		■	■	■				■			
Trapper Creek		■									■	■		■	■	■	□		■				VRM-Trapper and Alkali Creek WSAs within the Trapper Creek area are managed under Class I objectives.
Paint Rock		■									■	■		■	■	■	□	□		■			VRM-Medicine Lodge WSA within the Trapper Creek area are managed under Class I objectives. Travel Management-Spanish Point Karst ACEC within the Paint Rock area is closed to motorized travel.
Brokenback/ Logging Road Area		■									■	■		■	■	■				■			
South Bighorns		■									■	■		■	■	■				■			
Canyon Creek		■									■	■		■	■	■				■			
Red Canyon Creek		■									■	■		■						■			
The Rivers Area	■										■	■			□	□				■			VRM-Managed for VRM Class II (North and South Forks of the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers) and Class III (Shoshone River) objectives.
Historic Trails	■																						Management discussed in Cultural Resources and NHT.
Worland Caves	■																						Management discussed in Cave and Karst.
McCullough Peaks	■										■	■		■	■	■	□			■			Note-Refer to the Wilderness Study Areas section of Table 2-9 for management of the McCullough Peaks WSA. VRM-McCullough Peaks WSA within the McCullough Peaks area is managed under Class I objectives.
Basin Garden		■																					
Basin Gardens Play Area		■			■	4,421					■	■		■	■								

Alternative C Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management			NOTES
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	
Basin Gardens		■			■	15,349					■	■		■	■					■		
Horse Pasture		■									■	■			■					■		
Rattlesnake Ridge		■	■			7,996															■	Note-Rattlesnake Ridge area is managed consistent with other resource programs.
Beck Lake	■										■	■			■					■		Mineral Withdrawal-Only acreage under consideration for a withdrawal under R&PP lease.
Newton Lake Ridge	■										■	■			■					■		

¹Cody Field Office

²Worland Field Office

³Geophysical, Salables

- ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- C Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office
- CSU Controlled surface use
- ERMA Extensive Recreation Management Area
- NHT National Historic Trail
- NSO No surface occupancy
- R&PP Recreation and Public Purposes
- RMZ Recreation Management Zone
- ROW Rights-of-Way
- SRMA Special Recreation Management Area
- VRM Visual Resource Management
- W Bureau of Land Management Worland Field Office
- WSA Wilderness Study Area

Alternatives D and F Recreation Management Area Matrix

■ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives □ = Management Proposed for these Alternatives; see Notes for exception(s)

AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management				NOTES
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	Open	
Absaroka Foothills		■	■			42,615	■	See Notes	See Notes		■					■			■				Mineral Withdrawal-Mineral entry requires a Plan of Operations. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis outside of the Absaroka Front Management Area.
Absaroka (ERMA)		■			■	28,998	■	See Notes	See Notes		■								■				Mineral Withdrawal-Mineral entry requires a Plan of Operations. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on case-by-case basis outside of the Absaroka Front Management Area.
Bighorn River	■		■			2,496	□		See Notes		■					■			■				Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on a site-specific analysis.
Bighorn River (ERMA)		■			■	1,522	□		See Notes		■												Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on a site-specific analysis.
Badlands		■	■			211,561	See Notes		See Notes					■	■	■					■		NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Tour De Badlands		■		□		111,051	See Notes		See Notes		■								■				Type-Within the Badlands SRMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Wild Badlands		■		□		51,155												■	■				Management discussed in WSA section. Type-Within the Badlands SRMA.
Tatman Mountain		■		□		49,354	■		See Notes		■								■				Type-Within the Badlands SRMA. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
West Slope	■		■			320,704			See Notes	□	□	■			■	■			■				Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow in the West Slope SRMA. ROW-Avoidance/mitigation area on portions, remainder is open.
Trapper Creek		■		□			■		See Notes		■	■				■	■	□	■				Type-Within the Canyons RMZ in the West Slope of Bighorn Mountains SRMA. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on site-specific analysis. VRM-Trapper and Alkali Creek WSAs within the Trapper Creek RMZ area are managed under Class I objectives.
Paint Rock		■		□			■		See Notes		■	■				■	□	□	■				Type-Within the Canyons RMZ in the West Slope of Bighorn Mountains SRMA. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on site-specific analysis. VRM-Medicine Lodge WSA within Paint Rock RMZ area is managed under Class I objectives. Travel Management-Spanish Point Karst ACEC within the Paint Rock RMZ area is closed to motorized travel.

Alternatives D and F Recreation Management Area Matrix

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AREA	Field Office		Type			Acres	Minerals and Surface-disturbing Activity Restrictions			ROW			Renewable Energy		VRM				Travel Management				NOTES	
	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	Open		
Brokenback/ Logging Road Area		■		□		49,325	■		See Notes		■		■			■			■				■	Type-Within the boundaries of the existing West Slope of Bighorn Mountains SRMA. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on site-specific analysis.
South Bighorns		■	□		□	69,325	See Notes		See Notes		■			■	■				■					Type-A portion is within the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA and a portion is within the Southern Bighorns ERMA. NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on a site-specific analysis in the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA. Allow in the Southern Bighorns ERMA.
Middle Fork of the Powder River		■	■			14,644	■		See Notes		■		■						■					Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on site-specific analysis.
Canyon Creek		■	■			3,675	■		See Notes		■		■			■			■					Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on site-specific analysis.
Red Canyon Creek		■			■	8,435	See Notes				■		■						■					NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.
The Rivers Area	■		■			6,047	□		See Notes		■		■		■	■			□	□				NSO-Apply NSO restriction within ¼ mile of campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, river access sites and similar recreation sites. Other surface-disturbing Activities-Allow surface-disturbing activities if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on a site-specific analysis. Travel-Limited to Designated (N and S Forks of the Shoshone and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River), Limited to Existing (Shoshone River area).
Historic Trails	■																							Management discussed under Cultural Resources and NHTs.
Worland Caves	■																							Management discussed in Cave and Karst Resources.
McCullough Peaks	■		■			160,838	□				■		■		■	□			□	□				Travel-Limited to Designated in a portion and Limited to Existing in the remainder. Note-Refer to the Wilderness Study Areas section of Table 2-9 for management of the McCullough Peaks WSA. NSO-Apply a NSO restriction on 41,653 acres within the McCullough Peaks SRMA. VRM-McCullough Peaks WSA within SRMA is managed under Class I objectives.
Basin Garden		■																						
Basin Gardens Play Area		■	■			4,421	■		See Notes		■		■									■		Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow if the effects can be avoided or mitigated based on a site specific analysis.

Alternatives D and F Recreation Management Area Matrix

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	C ¹	W ²	SRMA	RMZ	ERMA		NSO/CSU for Oil and Gas Leasing	Locatable Mineral Withdrawal	Closed to Other Surface-disturbing Activities ³	Exclusion	Avoidance/Mitigation	Open	Open/Avoidance	Closed	Class IV	Class III	Class II	Class I	Closed	Limited to Designated	Limited to Existing	Open	
Basin Gardens		■			□		See Notes		See Notes		■		■								■		NSO-Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning. Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Horse Pasture		■	■			144	■		See Notes		■		■							■			Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Authorize mineral material disposals if the effects can be avoided or mitigated on a site-specific basis.
Rattlesnake Ridge		■			■	7,982															■		Note-Rattlesnake Ridge area is managed consistent with other resource programs.
Beck Lake	■		■			6,473	■		See Notes			■	■							■			Other Surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.
Newton Lake Ridge	■		■			1,949	■				■	■				■				■			Other surface-disturbing Activities-Allow on a case-by-case basis.

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