PLAN CHANGE NO. 5

Page: Livestock pg 10, Wildlife pg 18

Decision No: Conservation Measures Committed to by Bureau

DESCRIBE EXACTLY WHAT IS TO BE DELETED, ADDED, REWRITTEN, ETC. IN MOST CASES, THE NEW TEXT SHOULD BE STATED VERBATIM.

CHANGE: Per IM-2008-024 new wording follows (changes underlined)

1. Add existing Conservation Measure (CM) 2 to pg 10 Livestock Grazing Management of RMP

   a. "The Bureau will follow the Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing and Management for the Public Lands Administered by the Bureau in the State of Wyoming. Specifically, the Bureau will ensure that (1) soils are stable and allow for water infiltration to provide for optimal plant growth and minimal surface runoff; (2) upland vegetation on each ecological site consists of plant communities appropriate to the site what are resilient, diverse, and able to recover from a natural and human disturbance; and rangelands are capable of sustaining viable populations and a diversity of native plant and animal species appropriate to the habitat. Habitats that support or could support threatened species, endangered species, species of special concern, or sensitive species will be maintained or enhanced."

2. Add Existing CM 5 & 6

   a. Livestock pg 11 CM 5 The BLM will maintain biological diversity of plant and animal species; support WGFD strategic plan population objective levels to the extent practical and to the extent consistent with BLM multiple use management requirements; maintain, and where possible, improve forage production and quality of rangelands, fisheries, and wildlife habitat; and to the extent possible, provide habitat for threatened and endangered and special status plant and animal species on all public lands in compliance with the ESA and approved recovery plans.

   b. Wildlife Pg 18 CM 6 BLM policy invokes a minimum 5-year status as a BLM sensitive species after any delisting. The BTPD was removed as a candidate for listing under the ESA on August 12, 2004. BLM Policy Manual 6840 dictates that "the protection provided by the policy for candidate species shall be used as the minimum level of protection for BLM sensitive species (BLM Policy Manual 6840).

3. Add new CMs 7, 8, 9

   a. Wildlife pg 18 CM 7. Ensure there is no unauthorized control of BTPDs on BLM lands. Prairie dog control on public land shall not be authorized except for human health and safety reasons, or for resource damage determined acceptable for control by the BLM.

   b. Wildlife pg 18 CM 8. Notify the public that unauthorized use of poisons for BTPD control is not allowed on BLM lands.

   c. Livestock pg 11 CM 9. On any given grazing allotment containing black-tailed prairie dogs, the Bureau and grazing permittee will manage for a mosaic of range conditions. Areas occupied by prairie dogs may have reduced vegetation while other areas of the allotment which do not contain black-tailed prairie dogs may have thicker stands of grass and forbs.

DESCRIBE EXACT RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGE, TO INCLUDE REFERENCE MATERIAL (I.E., EA, RMP, IM, ETC).

REASON:

The conservation measures noted above will hereafter by utilized in all new land use and activity plan development (including revisions) and other resource management implementation actions (authorizations and projects) that involve activities that may impact species or habitats addressed in the conservation measures on BLM administered Public Lands in the Newcastle Field Office Planning area. These measures are based on current information and may be subject to change in the future based upon new information.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is part of the planning process and incorporating conservation measures resulting from consultation are part of the planning process and compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

SIGNATURES AS APPROPRIATE

Specialist	[illegible]	Date	12/2/2008
Field Manager	Vicki E. Hilmer	Date	12/02/08

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:
6840 (930) P

January 29, 2008

Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2008-024
Expires: 9/30/09

To: Field Managers, Buffalo, Casper, Cody, Newcastle, and Rawlins

From: State Director

Subject: *Resource Management Plan (RMP) Maintenance Action:* Incorporation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Programmatic Biological Evaluation (BE) for the Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Inter-agency Coordination Memorandum into Field Office (FO) Resource Management Plans (RMPs) by Maintenance Action

The attached document transmits the FWS inter-agency coordination memorandum based on a review of potential activities and conservation measures described under the Buffalo, Casper, Cody, Newcastle, and Rawlins BLM RMPs and the Wyoming BLM Statewide Programmatic Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) BE, and the potential effects of these activities on the black-tailed prairie dog in accordance with BLM's 6840 manual. The FWS reviewed all of BLM's activity specific determinations and was in agreement with our proactive analysis and proactive conservation measures, which should serve to guard this species from further decline.

The Wyoming BLM Statewide Programmatic Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) BE and the inter-agency coordination memorandum covering the FWS review can be found on the on the internet at http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Wildlife/BTprdog.html.

The preliminary determination is that this action is an RMP *Maintenance Action* as defined in 43 CFR 1610.5-4. The Buffalo, Casper, Cody, Newcastle, and Rawlins BLM FOs should review their existing RMPs, the programmatic BE, and the FWS inter-agency coordination memorandum. If you agree with this determination, please maintain the official hard copy of your RMP within 30 days of the date of this Instruction Memorandum (IM). Please also maintain the web-based copy of your RMP during the same timeframe. If you believe this action may require an RMP amendment, please contact Ken Peacock, Wyoming State Office, at (307) 775-6329.