PLAN CHANGE NO. 3

Page: WL 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-2006-037 new wording follows (changes underlined)

1. Update Conservation Measure (CM) 61 in RMP to match CM 3 in IM:
    a. Observations of black-footed ferrets, their sign, or carcasses on a project area and the location of the suspected observation, however obtained, shall be reported within 24 hours to the appropriate local Bureau wildlife biologist and Field Supervisor of the Service's office in Cheyenne, Wyoming (307) 772-2374. Observations will include a description including what was seen, time, date, exact location, suspected cause of death, and observer's name and telephone number. Carcasses or other "suspected" ferret remains shall be collected by the Service or Bureau employees, and deposited with the Service's Wyoming Field Office or the Service's law enforcement office. This type of specimen collection is authorized as described in 50 CFR 17.21(c)(3-4). It is imperative that any fresh black-footed ferret carcass be salvaged and immediately transported to the Service so pertinent information concerning the cause of death can be gathered, including photographs in order to document an accurate depiction of the fatality.

2. Add CM 4 from IM
    a. Discovery of a live black-footed ferret outside of the Experiment Non-essential population areas in Wyoming would have profound importance to the species' recovery. Reporting of such a discovery by staff, contractors, permittees, etc. will be fully encouraged by Bureau Staff and Management.

3. Add CM 5 from IM
    a. If black-footed ferrets or their sign are found on public lands outside of the Non-essential Experimental population areas in Wyoming, all previously authorized surface disturbing activities (or actions on any future application that may directly, indirectly, or cumulatively affect the colony/complex ongoing) in the complex in which black-footed ferrets are found shall temporarily cease until further direction is developed by a task force consisting of the Bureau Field Office Manager, the Service Field Office Supervisor, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) Non-game Coordinator, and other potentially affected parties to ensure that ferret surveys or appropriate actions are conducted as deemed necessary. The Bureau will also re-initiate section 7 consultation with the Service. An emergency road closure limiting access to the site will be enacted by the Bureau within 48 hours of the find to protect the newly discovered black-footed ferrets. This emergency road closure will be for all non-paved roads within at least

one mile of the find. On a case-by-case basis and with approval of the Service, certain surface disturbing activities within the town or complex may be allowed to continue.

4. Add CM 6 from IM
    a. Information on ferret identification shall be provided and posted in common areas and circulated in a memorandum among all employees and service providers. This information shall illustrate the black-footed ferret and its sign; describe morphology, tracks, scat, skull, habitat characteristics, behavior, and current status; and the relationship between project development and possible impacts to black-footed ferrets, especially regarding canine distemper and recreational shooting.
5. Update wording pg 18 RMP to match CM 7 in IM
    a. New prairie dog towns shall be allowed to become established on public lands in all circumstances where they would not interfere with other previously established activities.

6. Add CM 8 a, b, c from IM

    a. 8) The Bureau shall work with the Service and the WGFD to identify and select Special Management Areas for potential reintroduction sites for black-footed ferrets. These areas will be selected based upon a number of factors including the Bureau's ability to protect and manage them, their size (5,000 to 10,000 acre sites, optimally), and potential utility to black-footed ferrets. Because of the need to manage reintroduction sites (of prairie dog complexes) on a landscape scale, and because plague is a significant but unpredictable event, Special Management Areas may be selected that are currently "plagued out", but may recover in time. Complexes can be selected from, but not necessarily restricted to, those shown in block cleared areas (See Map 3 of BLM 2005). Protective measures will be drawn up for these Special Management Areas, and may include being withdrawn from leasing and protected from commercial development (i.e., land disposal through R&PP actions, etc.). Examples of protective measures that will be included in these Special Management Areas are:

        i. a. The Bureau shall work with respective State Game and Fish agencies and Service offices to ensure that enough reintroduction sites are maintained to successfully recover the black-footed ferret. If areas available for reintroduction are removed through the Bureau's authorized actions below a threshold level, so that the black-footed ferret can no longer be recovered, then those actions reducing availability of reintroduction sites will be modified or discontinued until the black-footed ferret has been recovered.

        ii. b. The Bureau shall monitor and post restrictions, if necessary, on recreational opportunities and other uses on Bureau-administered lands within I mile of formally proposed and active reintroduction sites for black-footed ferrets.

        iii. c. The Bureau and operators shall conduct educational outreach to employees regarding the nature, hosts, and symptoms of canine distemper and its effects on black-footed ferrets, focusing attention on why employees should not have pets on work sites during or after hours. The Bureau shall encourage operators to develop policies to prohibit dogs from operation sites or require current distemper vaccinations within black-footed ferret reintroduction areas. It is recommended that vaccinated puppies shall not be allowed until one month after their final distemper vaccination due to potential effects of the modified live virus vaccine.

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	[signature]	Date	12/2/2008
Field Manager	[signature]	Date	12/02/08

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer To:
6840 (930) P

June 7, 2006

Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2006-037
Expires 09/30/2007

To: Field Managers

From: Associate State Director

Subject: Resource Management Plan (RMP) Maintenance Action: Incorporation of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) for the Endangered Black-footed Ferret and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Informal Consultation into Field Office (FO) RMPs

The attached document transmits the FWS Informal Consultation based on a review of potential activities and conservation measures described within eleven of Wyoming BLM's RMPs (all RMPs except the Snake River RMP) and the Wyoming BLM's statewide Programmatic Black-footed Ferret BA and their potential effects on the endangered black-footed ferret in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq. and 50 CFR §402.10). The FWS concurred with the activity specific determinations of "no effect," or "not likely to adversely affect" presented in the August 25, 2005, Black-footed Ferret Statewide Programmatic BA.

The Wyoming BLM Statewide Programmatic BA for the black-footed ferret and the informal consultation response memorandum from the FWS can be found on the on the internet at http://www.wy.blm.gov/wildlife/blf-ferret.htm.

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

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

/s/ Donald A. Simpson
Acting

1 Attachment:
1 - Fish and Wildlife Service Memorandum (ES-61411/W.02/WY9741d) (24 pp.)