

# EVALUATION OF RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE CRITERIA FOR EXISTING AND PROPOSED ACECS—BLM RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE

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Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are areas of BLM-administered lands where special management attention is needed to protect their important and relevant values. “Special management attention” refers to management prescriptions developed during preparation of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) or amendment expressly to protect the important and relevant values on an area from the potential effects of actions permitted by the RMP, including proposed actions deemed to be in conformance with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the RMP (BLM Manual 1613). These are management measures that would not be necessary or prescribed if the critical and important features were not present.

To be designated as an ACEC, the area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance (as defined in BLM Manual 1613). Areas meeting the relevance criterion possess significant historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish or wildlife resources, including threatened and endangered species; or natural hazards. To meet the importance criterion, the resource must have substantial significance and value. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource, or qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.

There were four existing ACECS within the Resource Management Plan Planning Area (RMPPA): Como Bluff ACEC, Sand Hills ACEC, Jep Canyon ACEC, and Shamrock Hills ACEC. Public comment received during scoping suggested that a number of areas be considered for designation as ACECs, and some areas were proposed as potential ACECs by BLM. Areas within the RMPPA that were identified as potential ACECs include the Red Rim-Daley Area, Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly Area, High Savery Dam, Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area, Chain Lakes Areas, Laramie Peak Area, Pennock Mountain wildlife habitat management area (WHMA), Wick-Beumee WHMA, Shirley Mountain Bat Caves area, Laramie Plains Lakes Area (which includes the Lake Hattie, Twin Buttes Lake, and Hutton Lake Habitat Areas), blowout penstemon area, prairie dog areas, historic trails, mountain plover concentration areas, the Bates Hole/Chalk Mountain cushion plant community, and the Powder Rim juniper woodland.

BLM was required to determine if existing ACECs and areas proposed for ACEC designation meet the relevance and importance criteria prior to inclusion in the RMP process. This report presents the evaluation forms used by BLM to make this evaluation for all existing and proposed ACECs. Areas that did not meet the relevance and importance criteria were dropped from further consideration for ACEC designation. Areas that met the relevance and importance criteria were included in the management alternatives analyzed in the RMP.

**Based on public comments concerning a discrepancy in the way that similar resource values were considered in evaluating the relevance and importance values for consideration of proposed ACECs, we will reexamine all proposed ACECs, ACEC Proposal Evaluation Forms, and the necessity for special management, as we move forward to complete the Rawlins Proposed RMP Final EIS.**

**Table 1. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Como Bluff ACEC (Existing)**

<b>Como Bluff Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T22N, R77W	
General Description	Gently dipping exposure of Jurassic Morrison formation	
Acreage	1550	
Values Considered	Paleontological	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	A location where many early dinosaur fossils have been recovered. More specifically, the formations exposed are highly fossiliferous and have provided significant paleontological resources since the 1870s. Como Bluff has yielded approximately 80 new species of vertebrates.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	NA
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	Como Bluff has exposures of highly fossiliferous formations from the Cretaceous through the Triassic.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	Known worldwide; specimens of dinosaur fossils from this site are exhibited in museums throughout the United States and Europe.

<b>Como Bluff</b>		
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	The exposures of numerous highly fossiliferous formations are considered one of the most significant in the United States, and are unique to the locale.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	Como Bluff was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for the role it played in the development of the science of paleontology in 1973, and was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1973.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 2. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Sand Hills ACEC (Existing)**

<b>Sand Hills Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T17N, R90W; T16N, R90-91W,	
General Description	Sand Hills and JO Ranch Exchange	
Acreage	13,760 total acres, including 8,300 acres of the existing Sand Hills ACEC, 1,236 acres resulting from the JO Ranch Exchange), and 4,224 of buffer area to protect the viewshed and riparian habitat	
Values Considered	Historic and cultural values, wildlife values, and presence of an unique vegetation community complex	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	The JO Ranch/Rankin Ranch is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The ranch is an unique example of ranching that represents over 100 years of continuous use.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The Sand Hills area contains a very unique vegetation community complex combining natural sand dunes with an array of diverse vegetation including antelope bitterbrush, silver sage, Wyoming big sage, rabbitbrush, chokecherry and serviceberry.  The area is also important crucial winter range for mule deer and elk. The area contains Greater sage-grouse habitat and raptor nesting. One known Columbian sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground has been identified within the Sand Hills ACEC portion of this proposed ACEC; the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse is a Wyoming BLM state sensitive species.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	The Sand Hills area contains a very unique vegetation community complex combining natural sand dunes with an array of diverse vegetation. Also, riparian habitat exists along Cow Creek and associated irrigated meadows.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Sand Hills</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	The ranch is an unique example of ranching that represents over 100 years of continuous use; the ranch is cultural-eligible for NRHP under Criteria A.  The Sand Hills area contains a very unique vegetation community complex combining natural sand dunes with an array of diverse vegetation.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	The ranch contains significant cultural values, and its buildings require stabilization and protection to protect these values.  The soils (dunes) of the area's unique vegetation community complex require stabilization and protection.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	State historic properties present at the site must be protected.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	YES	Safety concerns related to unstable building structures exist on the ranch. Also, there are concerns related to hazardous materials, such as contaminated well water and rodent droppings, which may be present in these buildings.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	YES	There are concerns related to hazardous materials, such as contaminated well water and rodent droppings, which may be present in these buildings.

**Table 3. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Jep Canyon ACEC (Existing)**

<b>Jep Canyon Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T17-19 N, R88-90W (in various sections)	
General Description	The area is located approximately ten miles southwest of Rawlins, Wyoming.	
Acreage	The ACEC exists in the checkerboard area; there are 13,320 acres of public land.	
Values Considered	Wildlife values, specifically, crucial winter range for elk and nesting raptor pairs	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The area contains crucial winter habitat for elk and habitat for nesting pairs of raptors.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA

<b>Jep Canyon</b>		
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	Public land in the area contains crucial winter habitat for elk and nesting raptor pairs.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 4. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Shamrock Hills ACEC (Existing)**

<b>Shamrock Hills Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Located north of I-80 approximately 10 miles North West of Rawlins	
General Description	High relief topography that includes a high concentration of raptors ranging from red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, golden eagles, and prairie falcons	
Acreage	Approximately 17,280 acres of public land	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The area has a large population of nesting ferruginous hawks. The area has been identified as both a raptor concentration area, and is an existing ACEC. In February 2000, the area was determined to meet the qualifications of a Nationally Important Bird Area in the American Bird Conservancy's United States Important Bird Areas. The area is also part of a long-term monitoring program.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the "importance" criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Shamrock Hills</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	In February 2000, the area was determined to meet the qualifications of a Nationally Important Bird Area in the American Bird Conservancy's United States Important Bird Areas. The area is also part of a long-term monitoring program.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	NA
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 5. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Red Rim Daley (Proposed ACEC)**

<b>Red Rim Daley Area Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T19-21N, R89-90W (in various sections); the area is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Rawlins, Wyoming.	
General Description	The Red Rim area contains both the Daley Ranch Allotment and the Daley Ranch Pasture.	
Acreage	15,524 acres	
Values Considered	The values considered include the scenic values within the Red Sandstone Uplift, which contain historic carvings, and crucial winter habitat for antelope.	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	This area has scenic values within the Red Sandstone Uplift, which also contains historic carvings. The historic carvings, located at the southern end of the rock uplift, include the names and dates of people that have traveled through the area.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	This area contains crucial winter habitat for pronghorn antelope, which is necessary for the long-term protection and development of the species.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Red Rim Daley Area</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	The Red Rim area contains about a quarter of the important crucial winter range for pronghorn antelope in the RMPPA; the pronghorn antelope had national importance during the Red Rim fence controversy.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	The Red Sandstone Uplift contains unique and fragile historic carvings. The potential for conflicts between pronghorn antelope using crucial winter range habitat and coal development, specifically coal bed methane development, exists in the area. The area may require additional management to maintain unique scenic and wildlife values.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 6. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly Area (Proposed ACEC)**

<b>Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly Area</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T15-17, R88-90 (in various sections)	
General Description	Upper Muddy Creek watershed lies southwest of Rawlins, Wyoming. The habitat area is located approximately 30 miles southwest of Rawlins, Wyoming, and includes portions of the Muddy Creek watershed (4 <sup>th</sup> . Order) above the Weber Headcut structure.	
Acreage	127,430	
Values Considered	Wildlife and riparian values (the area is part of the Muddy Creek watershed system)	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The area contains elk crucial winter range and important potential habitat for Colorado river cutthroat trout (CRCT). Four BLM Wyoming state sensitive species (including CRCT) occur together in this watershed within Wyoming, making it a unique remnant of the Colorado River basin native fish fauna. Active research and restoration activities are being implemented for these species within this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	The area is part of the Muddy Creek watershed system, which includes important potential habitat for CRCT. The area is a species reintroduction area for CRCT. BLM and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the management of CRCT. The area is also part of a grazing demonstration area; grazing boundaries must be observed.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Upper Muddy Creek Watershed/Grizzly Area</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	The area is part of the Muddy Creek watershed system, which includes important potential habitat for CRCT. The area is a species reintroduction area for CRCT. BLM and WGFD signed a MOU for the management of CRCT. Also, a tri-state plan exists for management and restoration of CRCT.  The habitat area represents the last remaining remnant populations of this particular fish fauna within Wyoming.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	The area is part of the Muddy Creek watershed system, which includes important potential habitat for CRCT. The area is a species reintroduction area for CRCT. BLM and WGFD signed a MOU for the management of CRCT.  The riparian system is rare, and these fish species have witnessed drastic declines throughout their native ranges.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	The area is part of the Muddy Creek watershed system, which includes important potential habitat for CRCT. A tri-state plan exists for management and restoration of CRCT.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 7. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—High Savery Dam (Proposed ACEC)**

<b>High Savery Dam Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T15N, R88W, 6 <sup>th</sup> P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming	
General Description	The area is located adjacent to the High Savery Dam and Reservoir, and encompasses portion of Savery Creek, a developable fishery. Big game habitat, antelope, elk, and deer exist in the area.	
Acreage	Approximately 530 acres of public land.	
Values Considered	Riparian and recreational values	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	Upon the completion of the High Savery Dam and Reservoir Site, the reservoir may be stock with up to 14,600 adult CRCT. Also, a segment of the Savery Creek is within the project area and this could be developed into a fishery and a recreation site. Big game habitat also exists within the area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>High Savery Dam</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	A portion of the Savery Creek riparian area has potential to be developed into a fishery and recreation site. Through a MOU between the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) and the BLM signed June 2, 2003, the area would be jointly managed for recreational purposes. This includes lands both at the reservoir and at Savery Creek.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	Recreation and fishery development potential at Savery Creek, and at the High Savery Dam and Reservoir site.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 8. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Research Area**

<b>Stratton Sagebrush Steppe Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Located along BLM Road 3422 West of Saratoga, Wyoming.	
General Description	The area includes five small watersheds in the headwaters of Beaver Creek,	
Acreage	5,500 (of federal lands)	
Values Considered	Historic and scientific	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	A watershed study area for the analysis of vegetation management in high altitude sagebrush ecosystems. There has been a tremendous investment in infrastructure and data gathering on this site in the past.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	NA
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	High altitude sagebrush study locations are rare, which makes this particular site unique. This site offers the opportunity to gain information about how to better manage BLM high altitude sagebrush lands for multiple uses.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
Importance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	High altitude sagebrush study locations are rare, which makes this particular site unique.

<b>Stratton Sagebrush Steppe</b>		
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	NA
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	This area was set aside as a withdrawal to protect the research value of the site.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	YES	This site offers the opportunity to gain information about how to better manage BLM high altitude sagebrush lands for multiple uses.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 9. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Chain Lakes Area**

<b>Chain Lakes Area Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The Chain Lakes Habitat Area is located in the Red Desert approximately 30 miles northwest of Rawlins, Wyoming.	
General Description	The area contains a string of alkali lakes and associated wetlands with high sagebrush steppe habitat located to the south.	
Acreage	30,562 acres of which 54 percent are either owned or leased by WGFD, and the remaining 46 percent are federal lands administered by the BLM.	
Values Considered	The values include the natural lakes and associated wetlands, and a fence-free corridor for antelope migration to the south and east. The area receives heavy antelope use during periodic severe winters.	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The area contains migrations corridors for antelope to the south and the east. Antelope use the area extensively during periodic severe winters.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	The area contains a unique alkaline desert natural wetland community.  Mud pots, rare geological features, are scattered throughout the area.  This area is a reserve common allotment that has winter use that is presently compatible with antelope use.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Chain Lakes Area</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	The area contains a unique desert wetland ecosystem that provides important habitat for a diversity of species.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	The area contains a unique, fragile, and rare alkaline desert lake system.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 10. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Laramie Peak Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management Plan (HMP) Area**

<b>Laramie Peak Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The HMP Area encompasses T19-33N, R68-78W (in various sections); the BLM administered lands are located in T. 22-24 N., R. 71-73 W., in various sections. The Laramie Peak HMP is located northwest of Cheyenne, Wyoming and west of Wheatland, Wyoming.	
General Description	The Laramie Peak HMP is located northwest of Cheyenne, Wyoming and west of Wheatland, Wyoming. The HMP was created by signed agreement between the BLM (Casper and Rawlins Field Offices), WGFD, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 1994-1995 to restore, improve, and enhance habitat conditions for bighorn sheep and other wildlife species. The BLM portions of the entire HMP area contain crucial winter habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer.	
Acreage	2,045,300 acres (including 349,648 acres of BLM surface/federal minerals and 798 acres of BLM surface/state minerals located in this portion of the HMP area; there are also 576,380 acres of private surface/federal minerals and 33,675 acres of state surface/federal minerals)	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the "relevance" criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The goal of the HMP is to improve the distribution of bighorn sheep populations and associated genetic diversity by increasing and improving the amount and quality of open, secure foraging areas (adjacent to water and escape cover) in site-specific habitat areas. There are presently 15 proposed habitat sites, of which one, the Split Rock/Reese Mountains area, had lightning strike fires occur in 2002.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	There is the potential for the Laramie columbine, a BLM Wyoming state sensitive plant species, to occur in this area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA

<b>Laramie Peak Bighorn Sheep Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Importance</b>		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	Diseases, predators, fire suppression, decreased habitat quality (e.g., restricted travel corridors, over-abundance of dense conifer stands, lack of good quality forage), competition, human encroachment, and stress have all contributed to the decreased bighorn sheep populations in the Laramie Range. Over the years, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), environmental groups (e.g., Foundation for North American Wild Sheep), and the general public have expressed concern over the low population growth and recruitment of sheep due to these factors. These sheep sub-herds are becoming more and more isolated in nature, which tends to decrease genetic viability and generates the overall detrimental condition to the population as a whole.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 11. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Pennock Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA)**

<b>Pennock Mountain WHMA Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T17-18N, R82-83W (in various sections)	
General Description	This area is located northeast of Saratoga, Wyoming, and west of the Medicine Bow National Forest. The area was established in 1962 by WGFD. The area includes crucial winter range for both elk and mule deer. The BLM AUMs in this area are withheld from livestock use, and are held for forage for wintering elk. There is no livestock use presently occurring in the area.	
Acreage	The area encompasses a total of 9,806 acres	
Values Considered	The values considered include crucial winter range for both elk and mule deer. The BLM AUMs are withheld from livestock use and are held for forage for wintering elk. There is no livestock use presently occurring in the area.	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	NA
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Pennock Mountain WHMA</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	NA
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 12. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Wick-Beumee WHMA**

<b>Wick-Beumee WHMA Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Located on both the north and south sides I-80, between the towns of Elk Mountain and Arlington, Wyoming.	
General Description	The area is located 40 miles west of Laramie, Wyoming and is situated in the northern end of the Medicine Bow range. The terrain ranges from rugged foothills on the south to gently rolling plains on the north. The area was purchased by the WGFD primarily to provide winter range for elk. The area now provides quality year-round habitat for wildlife, as well as providing for public access for quality wildlife experiences.	
Acreage	10,344 acres deeded to WGFD; 2,440 acres of leased state land; and 286 acres of BLM.	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	NA
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Wick-Beumee WHMA</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	NA
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 13. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Laramie Plains Lakes Area<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Laramie Plains Lakes Area</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The area includes the Lake Hattie and Hutton Lake Habitat Areas, and the Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Area and Outdoor Classroom. The Hutton Lake Habitat Area is located approximately eight miles south of Laramie, Wyoming, and northeast of the Hutton Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Lake Hattie Habitat Area is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Laramie, Wyoming. The Twin Buttes Habitat Area is located approximately 13 miles southwest of Laramie, Wyoming. The Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Area is located north of Twin Buttes Lake.	
General Description	The area includes the Lake Hattie and Hutton Lake Habitat Areas, and the Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Area and Outdoor Classroom.	
Acreage	The Hutton Lake Habitat Area is 640 acres; the Lake Hattie Habitat Area encompasses about 1,291 acres; the Twin Buttes Habitat Area encompasses about 320 acres.	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA—All Habitat Areas
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	Lake Hattie and Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Areas—These wetland areas contain potential habitat for the endangered Wyoming toad. The toads are presently located in Moeboer Lake and Mortenson Lake, which are located to the southeast of these areas, and have the potential to travel between lakes via interconnected streams, canals, and wetlands.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	Lake Hattie and Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Areas—These areas are part of a complex of riparian habitat that contains a system of lakes, canals, and wetlands that provide known and potential habitat for the endangered Wyoming toad. Although these areas only contain potential habitat, it is highly possible that the toads can travel through the wetland corridors to Lake Hattie and Twin Buttes Lake.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA—All Habitat Areas

<sup>1</sup> The Laramie Plains Lakes Area encompasses the Lake Hattie and Hutton Lake Habitat Areas and the Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Area and Outdoor Classroom.

<b>Laramie Plains Lakes Area</b>		
<b>Importance</b>		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	Lake Hattie Habitat Area—This area has potential habitat for the endangered Wyoming toad, which has limited wetland habitat overall.  Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Area— The area has potential habitat for the endangered Wyoming toad, and is close enough to the local schools to be used as an outdoor biology classroom and lab.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	Lake Hattie and Twin Buttes Lake Habitat Areas—The unique wetland system of lakes, streams, and canals contains potential habitat for the endangered Wyoming toad. The system has the potential to be threatened by changes in agricultural practices and changes in land use practices; the area is vulnerable to drought.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA—All Habitat Areas
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA—All Habitat Areas
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA—All Habitat Areas

**Table 14. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Blowout Penstemon Area**

<b>Blowout Penstemon Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T26N, R85W; T26N, R86W; T26N, R86W; T25N, R86W (in various sections)	
General Description	The area includes the sand dunes east of Ferris Mountains and west of Bradley Peak, which includes an unique vegetation community complex containing the endangered blowout penstemon ( <i>Penstemon haydenii</i> ).	
Acreage	4,120 acres of federal lands	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	This area encompasses unique sand dunes that contain steep sandy slopes deposited at the base of granite or sedimentary mountains. The endangered blowout penstemon plant is restricted to these sparsely vegetated, early successional, shifting sand dunes and blow out depressions created by wind erosion. Although some believe the plant to be a native of Nebraska, historic records show that the plant may have been collected during the Hayden Expedition in 1877 when he traveled from Casper to Rawlins through “Sandy Creek Pass” in the “Seminole Hills”, now called the Ferris Mountains.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	This area is composed of an unique terrestrial geological feature that contains the endangered blowout penstemon plant species. The system contains shifting sand dunes that support unique vegetation types.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Blowout Penstemon Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	The blowout penstemon is currently Wyoming's only listed endangered plant and as of present, it is only known to occur within this area, other than the populations that are known to occur in Nebraska. The plant was listed s endangered in 1987. The plant is protected under state law in Nebraska, but receives no comparable protection in Wyoming.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	The Wyoming Natural Diversity Data Base (WYNDD) has determined that the plant is critically imperiled because of extreme rarity throughout its range. The plant is endangered and is vulnerable to the following threats: livestock grazing and trampling, changes in habitat quality, over collection, off-road vehicle use, pesticide use, construction activities, and natural threats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	Endangered species must be protected.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 15. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—White-tailed Prairie Dog Areas<sup>2</sup>**

White-tailed Prairie Dog Habitat Areas		
Area Considered		
General Location	Scattered throughout the RMPPA	
General Description	Eight white-tailed prairie complexes scattered throughout the RMPPA	
Acreage	221,471 total acres, including the Bolton complex (6,717 acres), Dad complex (6,785 acres), Kinney Rim complex (17,828 acres occurring in both the Rawlins FO and Rock Springs FO planning area), Pathfinder complex (12,507 acres occurring in both the Rawlins FO and Lander FO planning area), Saratoga complex (30,132 acres), Seminoe complex (1,725 acres), Shamrock Hills complex (19,781 acres), and Shirley Basin/Medicine Bow complex (139,498 acres) <sup>3</sup>	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
Identification Criteria		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	These white-tailed prairie dog complexes can provide habitat for the endangered black-footed ferret, or serve as a potential reintroduction sites.  The white-tailed prairie dog is on the Wyoming BLM’s State Sensitive Species list, which is a list of species warranting protection to keep these species from becoming listed.  Also on the Sensitive Species list are the mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, swift fox, and burrowing owl, all of which have some dependence on the associated habitat. White-tailed prairie dog complexes also maintain species diversity by providing habitat for these other species.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	White-tailed prairie dog complexes are unique natural systems. Prairie dogs provide a prey source for several species. Burrows constructed by prairie dogs provide shelter for other species; these burrows also can change plant community composition.

<sup>2</sup> Several white-tailed prairie dog complexes located in the RMPPA were evaluated for relevant and important values requiring special management. These areas include the Dad White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex, Bolton Ranch White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex, Kinney Rim White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex, Pathfinder White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex, Saratoga White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex, Seminoe White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex, Shamrock Hills White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex, and Shirley Basin/Medicine Bow White-tailed Prairie Dog Complex.

<sup>3</sup> Acreages from surveys conducted prior to 1995.

<b>White-tailed Prairie Dog Habitat Areas</b>		
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
<p>Importance</p> <p>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	These white-tailed prairie dog complexes meet the minimum required acreage size (1,000 acres) for a potential reintroduction site of the endangered black-footed ferret.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	These white-tailed prairie dog complexes are some of the largest in the state. White-tailed prairie dogs are considered sensitive in the state, and are identified on the BLM State Sensitive Species List. Also on the Sensitive Species list are the mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, swift fox, and burrowing owl, all of which have some dependence on the associated habitat. Protection of this fragile and unique habitat could provide some protection of other sensitive species.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	These white-tailed prairie dog complexes meet the minimum required acreage size (1,000 acres) for a potential reintroduction site of the endangered black-footed ferret. Protection of these complexes is in compliance with ESA and the mandates of FLPMA.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 16. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Black-tailed Prairie Dog Complex**

<b>Black-tailed Prairie Dog Complex Potential ACEC Proposal Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Lands in Laramie County, Wyoming	
General Description	Complex located in Laramie County, Wyoming	
Acreage	No surface acreage/mineral sub-surface acreage	
Values Considered	Potential habitat for T&E and Wyoming BLM State Sensitive Species	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	Black-tailed prairie dog complexes may provide habitat for the endangered black-footed ferret for ferrets in the wild or may serve as a potential reintroduction site. Furthermore, the black-tailed prairie dog is identified on the Wyoming BLM’s State Sensitive Species list. The BLM State Sensitive Species list also includes the mountain plover, burrowing owl, swift fox, and ferruginous hawk, all of which have some dependence on prairie dog habitat. It should be noted that at this time there is only one known complex identified within the RMPPA; however, it is located on private surface with federal sub-surface minerals.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	Black-tailed prairie dog complexes are unique natural systems. Black-tailed prairie dogs provide a prey source for several species. They also construct burrows that other species use for shelter as well as influence plant community composition through their foraging.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Black-tailed Prairie Dog Complex Potential ACEC Proposal</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	The black-tailed prairie dog is considered a keystone species, is located within the north-east portion of the RFO area and the species has plummeted to less than 1% of its historical levels. Remaining populations are small and geographically isolated.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	Black-tailed prairie dogs are considered sensitive in the state and are on the BLM State Sensitive Species list along with other species such as the mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, swift fox and burrowing owl, which depend on the associated habitat. Therefore, protecting this fragile and unique habitat will provide some protection for these other species as well.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	The species is identified as sensitive under BLM manual 6840 which allows the BLM to protect this habitat under FLPMA. In addition, this black-tailed prairie dog complex meets the minimum requirement to potentially support a black-footed ferret population; therefore, by providing protection to this complex the BLM is in compliance with ESA and the mandates of FLPMA.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 17. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Historic Trails**

<b>Historic Trail Areas Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Located throughout RMPPA	
General Description	Historic trade routes, Pony Express route, and freight roads	
Acreage	179,119 total acres (65,129 acres on BLM-administered lands), including a quarter mile buffer of all trails	
Values Considered	Historical/Cultural	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	All of the historic trails are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A. Associated sites, including the Washakie Stage Station and Name Rock, are on the National Register. Each trail is unique in that each provides insight into the history of economics, transportation, and settlement in southern Wyoming. As the trails are comprised only of tracks, they are quite sensitive to natural erosional processes as well as human disturbances, including off road vehicle use and development activities. All trails are more than 100 years old, with portions retaining intact ruts and swales.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	NA
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Historic Trail Areas</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	<p>Howard Stansbury used the Overland Trail as an expedition route to explore the Salt Lake Valley in 1850. It later became the Pony Express route from Denver to Fort Bridger in eastern Wyoming where it connected up with the Oregon Trail. Emigrants used the trail in the 1860s rather than the Oregon Trail in response to increasing Indian attacks.</p> <p>The Cherokee Trail originated as an Indian migration route and was later used as a north-south connection to Texas for cattle drives. Emigrants also used it during the 1860s rather than the Oregon Trail in response to increasing Indian attacks.</p> <p>The Rawlins to Baggs Freight Road originated in Rawlins and then traversed south to the Ute Agency in Meeker, Colorado. After the establishment of the UP Railroad in 1868, Rawlins became a center for supplies and travel. Originally the route was used for freight but mail and passenger services were added as the region became more populated. The military used the road to transport troops and supplies from Fort Steele to Meeker during a massacre in 1879.</p> <p>The Rawlins to Fort Washakie Road was created by the military after the establishment of Camp Auger at present day Lander. The military used the route from Rawlins north, as Rawlins was the closest rail and supply point for Camp Auger. Later the route was extended north to Fort Washakie after the Indian Agency was established there. In 1885, a tri-weekly stage was established between Rawlins and Lander, which used the Rawlins to Fort Washakie Trail until 1906.</p>
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	All of the historic trails are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A. Associated sites including the Washakie Stage Station and Name Rock are on the National Register. Each trail is unique in that each provides insight into the history of economics, transportation, and settlement in southern Wyoming. As the trails are comprised only of tracks, they are quite sensitive to natural erosional processes as well as human disturbances including off road vehicle use and development activities. All trails are more than 100 years old, with portions retaining intact ruts and swales. The visual integrity of the trails are threatened by the development of oil, gas, and coal reserves throughout the field office, while increased development threatens to eliminate trail traces.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	<p>Under FLPMA, the BLM is required to protect the quality of historic resources and archaeological values. Therefore, the BLM is required to protect the trails, although there is no mandate as to what protection measures will entail.</p> <p>All trails are protected under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act that stipulates Federal agencies must consider the effects of any undertaking on any site that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. There are seven aspects of integrity that must be met for determining if an historic property is eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Portions of each trail currently do not meet the eligibility criteria due to development of roads, installation of gas wells, and natural erosion.</p>
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA

<b>Historic Trail Areas</b>		
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 18. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Mountain Plover Concentration Areas<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Mountain Plover Concentration Areas</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Scattered throughout the RMPPA	
General Description	Six concentration areas occurring within the RMPPA	
Acreage	About 35,240 total acres of federal land (FlatTop Mountain concentration area—40 acres; Eagle’s Nest concentration area—20,480 acres; Mexican Flats concentration area—8,320 acres; Shirley Basin East concentration area—2,560 acres; Shirley Basin West concentration area—3,840 acres)	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA—No outstanding or unique significant values occur in these areas.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	NA—Mountain plover is listed on BLM Wyoming’s State Sensitive Species list. However, these areas do not contain habitat that is unique or essential for maintaining the species diversity. The RMPPA contains a considerable amount of potential and known habitat for nesting mountain plovers. Current management protection measures applied within the RMPPA afford sufficient projection of nesting mountain plovers.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	NA—Mountain plover is listed on BLM Wyoming’s State Sensitive Species list. However, these areas do not contain habitat that is unique or essential for maintaining the species diversity. The RMPPA contains a considerable amount of potential and known habitat for nesting mountain plovers. Current management protection measures applied within the RMPPA afford sufficient projection of nesting mountain plovers.

<sup>4</sup> Several mountain plover concentration areas located in the RMPPA were evaluated for relevant and important values requiring special management. These areas include the Eagle’s Nest, FlatTop Mountain, Mexican Flats, Powder Rim, Shirley Basin-East, and Shirley Basin-West concentration areas.

<b>Mountain Plover Concentration Areas</b>		
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA—No natural hazards are known to occur.
<p>Importance</p> <p>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA—No significant qualities to the area that give it special worth. It is one of many potential or known nesting areas for mountain plovers.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	NA—The area has no qualities or circumstances that make it any more fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change than other known nesting areas within the RMPPA or the State.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA—Not warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA—Has no qualities that warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA—Area does not pose a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 19. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Bates Hole/Chalk Mountain Cushion Plant Community**

<b>Bates Hole/Chalk Mountain Cushion Plant Community</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	T27N, R79-81W, T28N, R79-80W	
General Description	Approximately 38 miles north of Medicine Bow, Wyoming	
Acreage	Approximately 81,280 acres of federal land	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA—No outstanding value occurs here that does not occur elsewhere.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	The area contains cushion plant communities, some of which include Laramie false sagebrush ( <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> ) <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> , a BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species. This cushion plant area is not unique; there are many other cushion plant areas throughout the RMPPA and the State. The occurrence of Laramie false sagebrush is not unique to this area, and is provided sufficient protection by current management prescriptions for sensitive species.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	The area contains cushion plant communities, some of which include Laramie false sagebrush ( <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> ) <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> , a BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species. This cushion plant area is not unique; there are many other cushion plant areas throughout the RMPPA and the State. The occurrence of Laramie false sagebrush is not unique to this area, and is provided sufficient protection by current management prescriptions for sensitive species.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA—No Natural hazards are known to occur.
Importance		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA—No significant qualities to the area that give it special worth. It is one of many potential or known nesting areas for mountain plovers.

<b>Bates Hole/Chalk Mountain Cushion Plant Community</b>		
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	NA—The area has no qualities or circumstances that make it any more fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change than other known cushion plant communities or sagebrush/grassland communities within RMPPA or the State.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA—Not warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA—Has no qualities that warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA—Area does not pose a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 20. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form— Hogback Formations**

<b>Hogback Formations Area Considered</b>		
General Location	West end of Ferris Mountains WSA (T27-28, R88-89)	
General Description	Unusual and pristine outcrops of faulted, steeply dipping sedimentary rocks	
Acreage	8,669 total acres (northern polygon—3,394 acres; southern polygon—5,275 acres)	
Values Considered	Scenic value, unique natural process	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	The area has the remarkable steep face where trees struggle to grow in the cracks of the rock face. This rock face is adjacent to and visible from Highway 287 south of Muddy Gap. Most of the rest of the area is also visible from the highway and provides a striking example of undisturbed hogback formations.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	NA
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	While this is an excellent example of hogbacks (i.e., tilted metamorphic rocks undergoing erosion), hogbacks are not unusual in the region.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	No natural hazards are present that are not open and obvious to the casual observer.
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	While the steep rock face with trees growing out of it would be noticed and appreciated by a large portion of the people traveling by on the highway, similar formations do exist in adjacent regions.

Scenic character

<b>Hogback Formations</b>		
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	While the area could easily lose it's pristine character if subjected to two-track and uncontrolled noxious weed proliferation, the hogbacks would remain so long as mineral entry wasn't approved in the eroded areas between hogbacks.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	National priorities and FLPMA do not recognize this area as needing protection.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	No safety and public welfare concerns have been noted in this area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	This area poses no threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 21. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form— Prospect Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Area**

<b>Prospect Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The area is located approximately 31 miles south of Saratoga, Wyoming, along the Wyoming/Colorado state line (T12N, R81W; T13N, R80, 81, 90W)	
General Description	Greater sage-grouse nesting/brood rearing habitat	
Acreage	Approximately 8,140 acres of federal land	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	This area contains a relic island of sagebrush habitat, and an isolated population of Greater sage-grouse. The remaining sagebrush habitat on public land in the area needs to be maintained. Agriculture and housing developments in the area have lead to the loss of continuous sagebrush habitat on which the Greater sage-grouse depend.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	An isolated relic island of sagebrush habitat.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Prospect Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	Isolated island of sagebrush habitat where an isolated population of Greater sage-grouse are known to occur. The Greater sage-grouse is a BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species. Should this remaining sagebrush habitat be converted to something other than sagebrush, the remaining Greater sage-grouse within this area of the RMPPA would likely be lost.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 22. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form— Red Mountain Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Area**

<b>Red Mountain Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The area is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Laramie, Wyoming, along the Colorado/Wyoming state line (T12-13N, R76-77W in various sections).	
General Description	Greater sage-grouse nesting/brood rearing habitat	
Acreage	About 10,540 acres of federal land	
Values Considered	Wildlife	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	NA
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	This area contains a relic island of sagebrush habitat, and an isolated population of Greater sage-grouse. The remaining sagebrush habitat on public land in the area needs to be maintained. Agriculture and housing developments in the area have lead to the loss of continuous sagebrush habitat on which the Greater sage-grouse depend.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	An isolated relic island of sagebrush habitat.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	NA
Importance		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Red Mountain Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Area</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	NA
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	Isolated island of sagebrush habitat where an isolated population of Greater sage-grouse are known to occur. The Greater sage-grouse is a BLM Wyoming State Sensitive Species. Should this remaining sagebrush habitat be converted to something other than sagebrush, the remaining Greater sage-grouse within this area of the RMPPA would likely be lost.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA

**Table 23. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Powder Rim Juniper Woodland**

<b>Powder Rim Juniper Woodland Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The area is located about 20 miles west of Baggs, Wyoming, along the Colorado/Wyoming border (T12N, R93-96W and T13N, R94-96W).	
General Description	Juniper shrub woodland providing habitat for juniper obligate bird species and Gibben’s penstemon (a BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species); also, a resident elk herd occurs in this area.	
Acreage	About 33,280 acres of federal land	
Values Considered	Wildlife, special status species	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	The Cherokee Trail traverses the Powder Rim ACEC area. The Cherokee Trail was include in the ACEC Proposal for Historic Trails. The relevant values of the Cherokee Trail are evaluated above in the Historic Trails ACEC evaluation of relevant and important criteria; the evaluation of the Cherokee Trail is not repeated here.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The Powder Rim area includes juniper/shrub habitat that is unique in the RFO planning area, and provided habitat for nine of ten juniper obligate bird species occurring in Wyoming. Gibben’s penstemon, a BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species, occurs within this area, as does fringe habitat for Brewer’s sparrow, also a BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species. Also, numerous raptors, including the ferruginous hawk (a BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species) nest in the area. Finally, mule deer, antelope, and elk use the Powder Rim junipers for crucial winter range.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	Gibben’s penstemon, a BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species, occurs within this area. One population has been fenced for additional protection, and monitoring is conducted both inside and outside the exclosure to document the trend and influence of disturbance on the species.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	No natural hazards are known to occur.
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

<b>Powder Rim Juniper Woodland</b>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	While the Powder Rim area includes juniper/shrub habitat that is unique in the RFO planning area, this habitat is abundant in Colorado and Utah. Southern Wyoming is the northern extreme of the juniper habitat that occurs in these states.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	<p>Gibben’s penstemon, a BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species, occurs within this area. Current management provides for protection of this species; and these populations do not possess qualities that warrant consideration of additional or special management. It should be noted that the objective of the sensitive species designation is to ensure that BLM consider the overall welfare of these species when undertaking actions on public lands and those actions do not contribute to the need to list the species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>Several other populations of Gibben’s penstemon exist outside the Powder Rim area.</p> <p>Other plant species of concern from the Heritage and Wyoming Conservation Priority lists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Androstephium breviflorum</i></li> <li>• <i>Atriplex wolfi</i></li> <li>• <i>Boechera selbyi</i></li> <li>• <i>Cryptantha stricta</i></li> <li>• <i>Erigeron compactus var. consimilis</i></li> <li>• <i>Populus deltoids var. wislizenii</i></li> </ul> <p>The BLM completes an annual review of its BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species List. During the review process, Heritage and Wyoming Conservation Priority species are reviewed for inclusion in the List. To date, the six species listed above have not been found to warrant listing on the BLM-Wyoming State Sensitive Species List.</p> <p>Only 21 of the 1,923 ferruginous hawk nests within the entire field office have been identified in Powder Rim area. This area provides no unique or special habitat requirements that are not found elsewhere. Current management includes a timing stipulation for the protection of raptors.</p> <p>Brewer’s sparrow are sagebrush obligates, and are dependent on high shrub cover. Within juniper sites, Brewer’s sparrow are associated with large sagebrush patch sizes. The Powder Rim area contains marginal Brewer’s sparrow habitat. This area provides no unique or special habitat requirements that are not found elsewhere.</p> <p>Elk, mule deer, and antelope are common to the areas outside the Powder Rim, both in Colorado and southern Wyoming. This area provides no unique or special habitat requirements that are not currently found elsewhere within the vicinity of Powder Rim. Management for big game is no different within the proposed Powder Rim area than the area outside the area. Current management includes has a timing stipulation to protect big game crucial winter range.</p>

<b>Powder Rim Juniper Woodland</b>		
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA—The area does not warrant protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA—The area has no qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA—The area does not pose a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 24. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Shirley Mountains ACEC Proposal**

<b>Shirley Mountains ACEC Proposal</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Shirley Mountains ACEC proposal	
General Description	Located approximately 29 miles northwest of Medicine Bow, Wyoming (T25N, R80-82W and T26N, R80-82W).	
Acreage	Approximately 28800 acres of federal land	
Values Considered	Cushion plant communities, sagebrush/grassland communities/greasewood communities on playas/ graminooid-dominated wetlands and shrub dominated riparian communities. Note: Cave resource addressed in separate ACEC proposal.	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	No outstanding value occurs here that des not occur elsewhere.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	The area contains cushion plant communities some of which include the BLM state sensitive species <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> . This cushion plant area is not unique; there are many other cushion plant areas though out the field office and the state. <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> (Laramie false sagebrush) occurs in other places besides this location and is given addition protection by being on the BLM state sensitive list of which there are other plant species besides <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> on the list. The sagebrush/ grasslands/ riparian /wetlands and greasewood communities are not unique to this area and are found elsewhere within the field office and the state.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	The area contains cushion plant communities some of which include the BLM state sensitive species <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> . This cushion plant area is not unique; there are many other cushion plant areas though out the field office and the state. <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> (Laramie false sagebrush) occurs in other places besides this location and is given addition protection by being on the BLM state sensitive list of which there are other plant species besides <i>Spareromeria simplex</i> on the list. The sagebrush/ grasslands/ riparian /wetlands and greasewood communities are not unique to this area and are found elsewhere within the field office and the state.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	No natural hazards are known to occur.

<b>Shirley Mountains ACEC Proposal</b>		
<p><b>Importance</b>                      The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	No significant qualities to the area that give it special worth. It is one of many potential or known nesting areas for mountain plovers.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	The area has no qualities or circumstances that make it any more fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change than other known cushion plant communities or sagebrush/grassland/riparian/wetland/greasewood communities within the Rawlins Field Office or the State.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	NA— Not warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	NA—The area has no qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	NA—The area does not pose a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 25. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Wild Cow Potential ACEC Proposal**

<b>Wild Cow Potential ACEC Proposal Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The area is located south of Rawlins, WY and north of Dixon, WY.	
General Description	The area is located in T. 14-17 N., R. 88-91 W., in various sections.	
Acreage	The potential ACEC is mostly public land and covers approximately 62,850 acres.	
Values Considered	Vegetation complex to support a multitude of wildlife species, by maintaining the integrity of important vegetation components within wildlife habitat areas, including crucial winter range for elk and mule deer as well as habitat for other wildlife.	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	The area has no significant historic, cultural, or scenic values.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	The area does not contain habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity is present.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	No relevant natural process or system exist in the area.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	No natural hazards are know to occur in the area.
Importance The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		

Importance Value	Wild Cow Potential ACEC Proposal	
	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	Diversity of vegetation to support a multitude of wildlife such as elk, mule deer, grouse.  The area is regionally, if not nationally, significant as a hunting destination due to the numbers and diversity of big game animals.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	No qualities or circumstances exist in the area that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	The area has not been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	The area has does not contain qualities that warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	No features exist in the area that pose a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 26. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Adobe Town Fringe Areas Proposal**

<b>Adobe Town Fringe Areas Potential ACEC Proposal</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	The areas are located immediately adjacent to the Adobe Town WSA.	
General Description	The area is located in the Southwestern corner of the Rawlins Field Office, T13-16N, 95-97W.	
Acreage	The potential ACEC covers approximately 70,750 acres.	
Values Considered	Wildlife, geology, cultural/historic, vegetation	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in RMP alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	While cultural sites are present in the Adobe Town fringe areas, they are no more significant than those present in numerous areas throughout the region.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive, or threatened species; or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	NO	No fish or wildlife resource is at risk in this area.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	NO	Note: The Adobe Town WSA contains eroded Washakie formation badlands. These badlands within the WSA demonstrate unusual and scenic geological features such as spires and haystack and house shaped eroded forms. The Adobe Town WSA contains a significant portion of the total area of these types of outcrops.  The features within the Adobe Town fringe area are unusual but not rare or unique. Protecting additional acreage in the fringe areas would not add any exceptional or unique features and could inhibit recovery of known paleontological resources.

<b>Adobe Town Fringe Areas Potential ACEC Proposal</b>		
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	Natural hazards within the Adobe Town fringe areas do not differ significantly from those present in the surrounding area.
<p>Importance</p> <p>The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:</p>		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities, which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	The fringe areas do not have significant qualities which give them special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource within the region.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	These fringe areas are not unusually fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change as compared to the region.
Has been recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	National priorities and FLPMA do not recognize this area as needing protection.
Has qualities that warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	No safety and public welfare concerns have been noted in this area.
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.	NO	This area poses no threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 27. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form—Greater Sage-Grouse Winter Concentration Areas Proposal**

<b>Greater Sage-Grouse Winter Concentration Areas Potential ACEC Proposal</b>		
<b>Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Rawlins Field Office	
General Description	To protect sagebrush communities where greater sage-grouse congregate during winter	
Acreage	Calculation not complete	
Values Considered	Stands of sagebrush that exhibit necessary size, density, aspect, etc. to provide forage and thermal cover for wintering sage grouse	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance:		
An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
<b>Relevance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	NO	No significant historic, cultural or scenic values.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	Habitat areas that are essential for maintaining greater sage-grouse throughout the winter portion of their life cycle; The greater sage grouse is a BLM sensitive species.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	Sagebrush habitat that supports greater sage grouse through the winter portion of their life cycle.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.	NO	No natural hazards.
Importance		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	NO	Greater sage-grouse winter habitat is spread throughout the field office and the state. Winter habitat for greater sage-grouse does not appear to be limiting.

<b>Greater Sage-Grouse Winter Concentration Areas Potential ACEC Proposal</b>		
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	NO	Sagebrush that supports wintering greater sage-grouse does not have qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	NO	Does not warrant protection to satisfy national priority concerns.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	Does not warrant highlighting to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	NO	Does not pose a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

**Table 28. ACEC Proposal Evaluation Form— Cave Creek Cave**

<b>Cave Creek Cave Potential ACEC Proposal Area Considered</b>		
General Location	Rawlins Field Office: There are two caves that are located on Cave Creek on the northwest portion of Shirley Mountain.	
General Description	The cave system is located in T. 26 N., R. 82 W., section 24 and contains two caves – Cave Creek Cave and Monsoon’s Mudhole.	
Acreage	The caves and associated riparian area contain approximately 640 acres.	
Values Considered	A hibernaculum for BLM Wyoming state sensitive bat species, historic signature room located within Cave Creek Cave, and unique caving recreational opportunities.	
<b>Identification Criteria</b>		
To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in resource management plan alternatives, an area must meet the criteria of relevance and importance, as established and defined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.		
Relevance: An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:		
Relevance Value	Yes/No	Rationale for Determination
A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resources important to Native Americans).	YES	There is a signature room located within Cave Creek Cave that is large in size and contains numerous signatures dating back to the 1800s. There is a visitor register also located within the signature room.
A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).	YES	The cave system contains summer habitat for five bat species, including two BLM Wyoming State sensitive species – the long-eared myotis and the fringed myotis. The cave also contains a winter hibernaculum for three species, including one BLM Wyoming State sensitive species – the Townsend’s big-eared bat. The Townsend’s big-eared bat is also considered a high priority bat species by the Western Bat Working Group. The cave system provides habitat for bat species that is generally declining throughout the western United States.
A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).	YES	The cave system represents a unique geological feature. The cave system contains unique habitat for bats and serves as both a summer day/night roost and winter hibernaculum for at least six bat species. These habitat types require specific temperatures and humidity levels that are present within this cave system.
Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process).	NO	N/A

<b>Cave Creek Cave Potential ACEC Proposal</b>		
<b>Importance</b>		
The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the “importance” criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:		
<b>Importance Value</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Rationale for Determination</b>
Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.	YES	There are a limited number of natural caves within the area and this cave provides unique habitat for species, specifically for bat species that use the cave in both the summer and winter months.
Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.	YES	The cave system is rare in the Rawlins Field Office area and provides habitat for at least six species of bats, of which three of the species are on the BLM Wyoming State sensitive species list. A bat gate was installed at the entrance of Cave Creek Cave in 2001 to provide for the seasonal closure of the cave between November 1 and April 1 for the protection of hibernating bats.
Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of FLPMA.	YES	The Federal Cave Resources Protection Act (Cave Act) was passed to allow caves to be recognized as a natural resource worthy of active management. BLM developed an MOU with Bat Conservation International (BCI) and issued specific guidance for the management of bats and their habitats on public lands. There is a bat gate located at the entrance of Cave Creek Cave for the protection of bat species, of which three species are identified as sensitive by the BLM.
Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.	NO	N/A
Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property	NO	N/A