

Table 2.1.23 Proposed RMP and Alternatives – Vegetation Resources

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PROPOSED RMP	Alternative A (Preferred Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D Current Management (No Action)	Alternative E
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VEGETATION RESOURCES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that management of native and naturalized plant species enhances, restores, and does not reduce the biological and genetic diversity of natural ecosystems.
- Maintain and/or enhance soil and watershed conditions and forage production.
- Achieve a desired ecological stage or desired plant community structure.
- Appropriately control and manage noxious weeds, poisonous and invasive plants, and insects.
- Protect special status plant species and their habitats.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES

- Allow mechanical, fire, biological, or chemical control of noxious weeds and insect infestations within the resource planning area with restrictions to protect desired ground cover and water quality. Use the type of manipulation appropriate to and consistent with other land use objectives.
- Continue implementation of noxious weed and invasive species control actions as per national guidance and local weed management plans in cooperation with state, federal, affected counties, adjoining private landowners and other partners or interests directly affected.
- Utilize principles of integrated pest management for control and management of noxious weeds and invasive species. This includes prevention, control through mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical methods.
- Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that would benefit wildlife in crucial habitat and livestock grazing. Manage vegetation in remaining areas that results in high vegetation species diversity.
- Allow mechanical, fire, biological, cultural, or chemical methods for vegetation manipulation, using the type of manipulation appropriate to and consistent with other land use objectives, and incorporating standard operating procedures and BMPs, as applicable, to protect other resources.
- Continue implementation of noxious weed and invasive species control actions as per national guidance and local weed management plans in cooperation with state, federal, affected counties, adjoining private landowners and other partners or interests directly affected.
- Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that would benefit wildlife in crucial habitat and livestock grazing. Manage vegetation in remaining areas that results in high vegetation species diversity.
- Use of pesticides and herbicides shall comply with the applicable federal and state law. Prior to the use of pesticides, project proponents shall obtain from the Authorized Officer written approval of Pesticide Use Proposal, which is a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used; pest(s) to be controlled; method of application; location of storage and disposal of containers; and any other information deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the Authorized Officer prior to use. In addition, within 24 hours of any pesticide application, a Pesticide Application Record must be completed. A similar procedure is required for the release of biological control agents.
- Manage the vegetation to attain the ecological stage that would:
 - Ensure sustainability
 - Meet authorized use allocations (livestock, wildlife).
 - Ensure species diversity
- Manage the following vegetative types to achieve the desired mix of seral stages, as outlined below

Existing Seral Stages by Vegetation Type					Desired Seral Stages by Vegetation Type				
	% Late	% Mid	% Early	# of Acres		% Late	% Mid	% Early	# of Acres
Aspen	90	5	5	2,927	Aspen	45	30	25	2,927
Black Sagebrush	70	20	10	241,416	Black Sagebrush	80	15	5	241,416
Desert Shrub	65	10	25	351,766	Desert Shrub	80	15	5	351,766
Douglas Fir	80	15	5	137,997	Douglas Fir	60	20	20	137,997
Four Wing Salt Bush	75	15	10	145,012	Four Wing Salt Bush	55	30	15	145,012
Gardner's Salt Bush	80	10	5	58,704	Gardner's Salt Bush	90	5	5	58,704
Greasewood	90	5	5	61,213	Greasewood	55	30	15	61,213
Mountain Browse	85	10	5	109,987	Mountain Browse	55	30	15	109,987
Mountain Sagebrush	70	20	10	78,000	Mountain Sagebrush	55	30	15	78,000
Pinyon-Juniper	80	10	10	614,518	Pinyon-Juniper	60	25	15	614,518
Riparian	75	15	10	8,974	Riparian	90	5	5	8,974
Wyoming Sagebrush	75	20	5	377,817	Wyoming Sagebrush	55	30	15	377,817

Source: Steve Strong, VFO, 2002

- In order to help control noxious weeds power washing would be required for permitted uses.
- Users of BLM-administered land would be required to use certified weed-free feed such as hay, straw, mulch, hay cubes, pellets, and grain.
- Restore or rehabilitate up to 200,000 acres of sagebrush-steppe habitat over the life of the plan. Such vegetation treatments would consider the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Guidelines for Management of Sage-grouse

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VEGETATION RESOURCES					
Populations and Habitats and State and Local Conservation Plans.					