

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan Evaluation

BLM Wyoming

FINAL



Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

BLM e-Planning link: <https://go.usa.gov/x694C>

The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

DOI-BLM-WY-R050-2007-0001-RMP-EIS

Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation

Final RMP Evaluation Report

I. Introduction & Purpose

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office (LFO) Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lander Resource Management Plan (Lander RMP) was approved on June 25, 2014. The Lander RMP provides a framework for the management of public lands in the LFO. The planning area is located in west-central Wyoming and includes approximately 6.6 million acres of land in Fremont, Natrona, Carbon, Sweetwater, Hot Springs, and Teton counties. Although Teton County is within the administrative boundary for the Lander Field Office, no BLM-administered surface or mineral estate occurs in Teton County. Within the planning area, the BLM administers approximately 2.4 million acres of surface estate and 2.8 million acres of federal mineral estate. The Lander RMP has documented several maintenance actions since the approval of the ROD to account for conflicts in decisions, clarify confusion or add Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data or maps to decisions. A complete copy of the current approved RMP, as amended and maintained, is available on the BLM's public ePlanning website.¹

The purpose of this Land Use Plan (LUP, used here interchangeably with RMP) evaluation is to “determine whether mitigation measures are satisfactory, whether there has been significant change in the related plans of other Federal agencies, State or Local governments, or Indian tribes, or whether there is new data of significance to the plan.” (43 CFR 1610.4-9). Findings from the LUP evaluation may be used to initiate a plan revision, amendment(s), or maintenance of the approved LUP; or the evaluation may conclude that the approved plan does not require any changes. The RMP evaluation follows the procedures provided in BLM-Wyoming Instruction Memorandum WY-2020-020 (“Resource Management Plan Evaluations”, September 30, 2020).

The scope of the RMP evaluation includes the 2014 Lander approved RMP, as amended or maintained, except for the Greater sage-grouse decisions and subsequent amendments (since these decisions are currently the subject of ongoing litigation, are currently being reviewed by the BLM, and the BLM has announced that it will soon begin updates to the sage-grouse plans).²

II. Evaluation

A. Evaluation Methodology and Background Information

The BLM's procedures for evaluating its land use plans are described in the BLM's land use planning regulations (at 43 CFR 1610.4-9) and the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1; see Chapter V.B). BLM-Wyoming's recent Resource Management Plan Evaluations IM (WY-2020-020) provides additional guidance on the procedures for completing an RMP evaluation.

This RMP evaluation generally has followed the steps shown in Figure 1:

¹ Available at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/18602/570>

² <https://www.blm.gov/programs/fish-and-wildlife/sage-grouse>

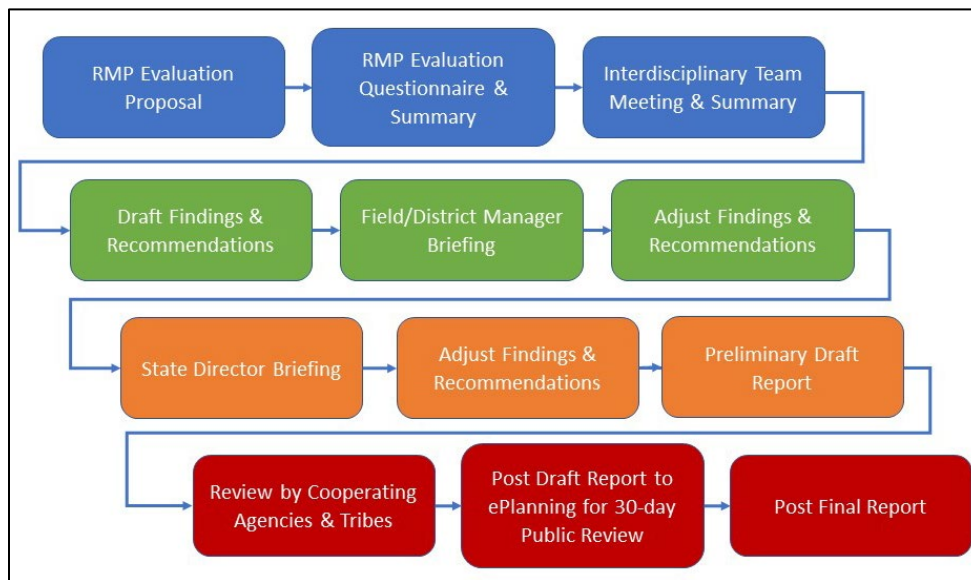


Figure 1

A questionnaire designed to assess the approved RMP was completed by the Lander Field Office (LFO) Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) and Wyoming State Office (WYSO) specialists between February 22-March 12, 2021. All responses were consolidated and reviewed by the LFO project lead and co-lead and the WY933 Planning and Environmental Coordinator to identify planning- and implementation-level³ findings and land use planning implications. Follow-up questions were sent to the IDT and WYSO specialists, as necessary. The implementation-level findings will be used for follow-up outside of the RMP evaluation process but are not considered further. From this information, key planning-level findings and conclusions were developed.

The completed and anticipated project milestones are provided, below:

Task	Completed
I. Initiate LUP Evaluation and Prepare the <i>LUP Evaluation Proposal</i>	2/10/2021
II. Complete <i>LUP Evaluation Questionnaire</i>	3/26/2021
III. Conduct Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Meeting and Prepare <i>Summary of the IDT Meeting</i>	4/9/2021
IV. Prepare and Distribute <i>LUP Evaluation Findings and Recommendations</i>	4/19/2021
V. Conduct Field Office LUP Evaluation Briefing	4/29/2021
VI. Conduct State Office LUP Evaluation Briefing	5/14/2021
VII. Prepare and Distribute <i>Draft LUP Evaluation Report</i> for Cooperator and Tribal Reviews	6/9/2021
V. Post Draft LUP Evaluation Report to ePlanning for Public Review, Prepare <i>Summary of Public Comments</i>	7/20/2021
VII. Post and Distribute <i>Final LUP Evaluation Report</i>	9/24/2021

See Attachment No. 1 for a summary report of implementation-level actions completed under the approved Lander RMP.

See Attachment No. 2 for a list of the BLM agency personnel who have participated in the RMP evaluation.

See Attachment No. 3 for a listing of implementation-level actions under the approved Lander RMP.

See Attachment No. 4 for a summary of public comments and the BLM's responses.

³ BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) at pages 29-30: "Implementation decisions generally constitute BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. These types of decisions require appropriate site-specific planning and NEPA analysis."

Lander Field Office Planning Area

Cody Field Office

Worland Field Office

Legend

- Wind River Indian Reservation
- BLM Field Office Boundary

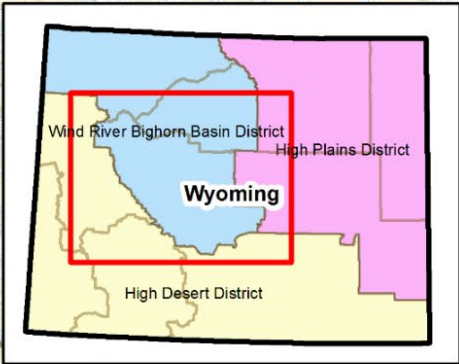
Surface Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Private
- State

Pinedale Field Office

Lander Field Office

Casper Field Office



No warranty is made by the BLM for use of these data for purposes not intended by BLM.

B. Findings and Recommendations

The BLM's principal findings are:

1. The approved Lander RMP, as amended and maintained, includes adequate goals, objectives, administrative designations, allocations, and management direction for the BLM to continue management of the public lands in the Lander planning area consistent with the BLM's mandates for multiple use and sustained yield.
2. The mitigation measures in the approved RMP are satisfactory, though they can be improved upon with the measures described in the recommendations, below.
3. The BLM is not aware of significant changes in the related plans of other Federal agencies, State or Local governments, or Indian tribes requiring modifications to the approved RMP.
4. There is not data of new significance to the approved RMP, as amended and maintained, other than the data identified below that is recommended for incorporation to the approved RMP.

C. Key Planning-Level Findings

Air Quality -- The air quality analysis and impacts disclosure remain adequate, and the RMP objectives provided in Record Nos. 1001-1008 are sufficient to continue to provide for compliance with applicable federal and state air quality standards.

Climate Change -- The potential contributions to climate change from BLM-authorized activities in the planning area are not specifically addressed through a goal, objective, or management decision in the approved RMP and ROD, nor are the potential effects from climate change on BLM-administered resources (though impacts associated with climate change were addressed in detail in the FEIS; see Section 4.9, Climate Change). Under Secretarial Order 3399 ("Department-Wide Approach to the Climate Crisis and Restoring Transparency and Integrity to the Decision-Making Process", April 16, 2021), the DOI has committed to convening a Task Force and providing guidance to DOI agencies regarding agency decision-making (including for NEPA analyses). Aside from the recommendation in the Final Report, future DOI and BLM guidance on addressing climate change will likely contain updated policies reflecting land use management, it would be premature to recommend further changes at this time.

Soils -- The existing soils data adequately represents current conditions within the project area. The data is utilized to determine if site specific projects would meet RMP goals and objectives. Soil data was utilized during the RMP revision process to identify soils that have limited reclamation potential and RMP management is in place to protect soil erosion and steep slopes that could result in erosion hazards or erodible classes within the planning area. Data is limited for Sweetwater County; however, RMP Record No. 1009 states "Pursue and support the completion of Order 3 soil surveys" which would support the efforts to collect this data for site specific projects in coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Due to constraints in staffing and resources to complete soil surveys, this has not yet been completed.

Water Resources -- There were no data needs identified for water resources through the evaluation. The BLM is required to comply with all state requirements respecting the control and abatement of water pollution under Section 313 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1323) when approving projects that may affect water resources. BLM has authority to protect and manage water resources according to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and does so through the implementation of the RMP. The BLM is also required to comply with all state requirements respecting the control and abatement of water pollution under Section 313 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1323) for federal decisions that could affect water quality. The LFO supports the agencies who oversee implementation of the CWA and acknowledges its limited authority in

permitting oversight of water resources. The management in the RMP (Record Nos. 1027, 1028) supports the State of Wyoming's goals for water quality in limiting or applying stipulations or best management practices to prevent point and nonpoint source pollution. The RMP prioritizes management to improve water quality of impaired waters with general objectives of improving quality, but no measurable objectives are identified (Record No. 1032).

Vegetation -- Appropriate data was used in the RMP revision and is regularly updated as conditions warrant. The RMP identifies characteristics of health vegetation communities. These characteristics are used to design monitoring to assess the health of the communities. Record No. 3008 identifies management for commercial and/or non-commercial vegetation product harvesting however does not specify areas that are restricted or closed beyond other resource value restrictions.

The RMP contains strategies for conserving threatened or endangered and special status plant species, including listed species. While the RMP did not specifically identify populations of these species (other than the Desert Yellowhead), all special status plants subsequently found in the planning area are protected and managed under Record Nos. 4081, 4083, 4085 and 4086.

The RMP addresses and provides adequate protections for invasive and noxious species within the planning area.

Riparian -- The RMP adequately provides for Desired Future Conditions (DFC) and goals and objectives to strive for by conducting Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) surveys and implementing additional management for protection of riparian areas. Goals are to maintain, enhance, or restore riparian-wetland areas. Objective BR: 6.2 "Develop management plans capable of ensuring riparian-wetland areas will achieve or exceed proper functioning conditions." Record No. 4029 states "Implement management actions to have riparian-wetland areas meet or exceed proper functioning conditions and Standard 2 of the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands." Proper Functioning Condition assessments are being completed routinely. Management actions prescribed in the RMP include "Use all tools to make significant progress toward proper functioning conditions, including but not limited to, making adjustments in livestock grazing such as season of use, rest/deferment, modification of the number of livestock, and installing range improvements designed to implement comprehensive livestock grazing strategies, travel management (i.e., road closures), and other authorizations." This is sufficient to meet DFC's.

Fish and Wildlife, Threatened/Endangered and Special Status Species -- The RMP identifies habitat for priority species and addresses management prescriptions to maintain or improve habitat integrity, continuity, connectivity and productivity for fish and wildlife on a landscape scale. This will allow species to fulfill their life-cycle requirements. The RMP adequately provides for protections of habitat continuity and connectivity by placing restrictions on timing or duration of multiple use actions. Management actions within the RMP protect habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species. Management considers other important habitat needs, including migration routes/corridors. LFO does have some additional data needs for mapping of migration corridors, however, land uses are not expected to change dramatically based on those efforts. Since the 2014 RMP was completed, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has designated several big game migration corridors in Wyoming, including for the Sublette mule deer herd, which intersects a portion of the Lander planning area.

Since the completion of the RMP there have been multiple changes to the status of grizzly bear and gray wolf and these species continue to have a somewhat uncertain status. Though the status of these species has changed, there is not currently any need for adjustment to the RMP as any stipulations related to grizzly bear and gray wolf are related to human health and safety (i.e., food storage order) and species sighting information. The decisions found in the RMP are consistent with current Biological Assessments, Biological Opinions and Recovery plans. No new species have been identified since the completion of the RMP. The LFO is not currently held to any plan on any

conservation measures or terms and conditions resulting from Section 7 consultations for wildlife beyond RMP consultation.

Management actions within the RMP for migratory birds and raptors, including Bald and Golden eagles, is sufficient to protect habitat important to these species.

Wild Horses -- The RMP identified the herd management boundaries on Map 27, as designated. No changes have been made to these boundaries since the RMP completion. Management of wild horse habitat and populations is addressed appropriately in Record Nos. 4121-4132.

Native American Concerns and Coordination -- There are no new issues or concerns that were identified which would need to be addressed through additional land use plan decisions for the protection of sacred sites or use of areas for gathering plants for traditional purposes. There are no known conflicts of land uses to adjacent reservation boundaries that would be incompatible with existing or proposed tribal land uses or tribal land use plans.

The RMP Goals and Objectives states that the LFO would strive to:

“Goal HR: 4 Maintain existing and establish new working relationships with Native American tribes for purposes of advancing the protection of cultural resources.

Objective:

HR: 4.1 Consult, as appropriate, with Native Americans to identify tribally-sensitive resources or places that may be present within the Lander Field Office. Safeguard all information considered by tribes to be confidential, and utilize the information to prevent conflicts with incompatible uses.”

The RMP ensures Native American concerns are addressed through protection of specific resources as they are identified (Record Nos. 5002 and 5003). Consultation efforts on site specific actions are addressed in Record No. 5007 “Consult with tribes when specific projects may have the potential to adversely affect resources important to them. Consider tribal views when uses threaten these sites and protect tribally important sites, areas, and resources whenever possible.”

Cultural Resources -- Overall, the RMP fully addresses land use applications that may affect cultural resources within the project area. Cultural resources within the field office were formally allocated to the use categories defined in Manual 8110 in the 2011 Cultural Resources Class I Regional Overview prepared for the Lander Field Office under contract. The categorization in the Class I report is applicable to both known cultural properties and those projected to occur. Area route designations protect cultural resources through Record No. 5012 “Conduct travel planning in consideration of the values associated with sacred, spiritual, and/or Traditional Cultural Properties.” Regional Historic Trails and Early Highways (RHT&EHs) are protected through resource management found in Record Nos. 5014-5021.

The protection zone boundary for 48FR7195 was not defined at the time the RMP was completed in 2014.

Currently established protection zones are as follows:

- 48FR301: 2,915 acres
- 48FR311: 551 acres
- 48FR773: 584 acres
- 48FR2620: 770 acres
- 48FR3997: 1,044 acres
- 48FR4070: 3,365 acres

- 48FR4489: 936 acres
- 48FR6125: 770 acres
- 48FR7197: 770 acres
- 48FR7610: 770 acres
- 48SW12195: 2,551 acres

For a total of 15,025 acres in addition to whatever protection zone is established around 48FR7195. Additional inventory and/or consultation may be needed to establish an appropriate protection zone around Site 48FR7195.

Paleontological Resources -- Management of paleontological resources is addressed in RMP Record Nos. 5053-5064. These protections provide protections for known resources as well as unknown discoveries. The RMP goals, objectives and management identify opportunities for scientific, educational, and recreation use for paleontological localities. In July 2020, the planning area's Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) rankings were updated, including high-resolution GIS data. Record Nos. 5058-5059 (see also 5061, 5062, and 5064) provide for allocation decisions related to minerals management and rights-of-way in areas of "very high" or "high" PFYCs. The RMP has not yet been maintained to include the updated PFYC data.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) -- VRM classes were allocated in the RMP. They reflect current resource demand and sensitivity. VRM protects visual values while also managing development. In every instance where high value visual resource has interfaced with projects the VRM class reflects the value of the scenic resource.

Fire and Fuels -- The RMP follows "The Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy" (January 2001) and "Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy" (February 2009).

Fire Management decisions consider firefighter and public safety, benefits and values to be protected, strategies that result in minimum suppression costs in Table 2.9 (3000 Fire and Fuels Management).

RMP allows for management of unplanned ignitions (Goal FM:2) but no site-specific areas are identified in the RMP to allow it. No geographic areas identified for suitable/unsuitable for the use of wildland fire from unplanned ignitions to meet resource objectives.

Special Area Designations (Back Country Byways, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Landmarks, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics) -- Monitoring studies and adaptive management practices and triggers are not in place as they were not required in the Land Use Planning Guidance.

Desired Future Conditions/ Goals and Objectives for Special Area Designations are appropriate. There are no conflicting management objectives since the signing of the RMP in 2014.

The Baldwin Creek Canyon review for eligibility for Wild and Scenic Rivers did not include the entire segment of Baldwin Creek, this was an omission, the ORVs are present throughout the BLM section of this tributary, so it should be re-reviewed.

Specific activity plans were not identified in the RMP for special designations because it was felt that adequate direction was provided within the RMP decision framework.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern -- No new issues or resources have been identified that would warrant potential special area designation and all management prescriptions for existing ACEC's adequately protect resources for which they were designated. The RMP addresses the need for ACEC management plans, however no comprehensive management plans have been completed to-date.

National Historic Trails (NHTs) -- The RMP contains a separate section on managing NHTs as specified by Manual 6280; this includes management direction for Oregon NHT, Mormon Pioneer NHT, Pony Express NHT, California NHT, and Continental Divide NHT within the Lander Field Office. Corridor for the NHT is identified within Record No. 7001.

Wilderness and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics- The Lander Field Office does not have designated Wilderness. However, it does have 7 WSAs and 1 area designated as a Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs), which are monitored annually. The RMP sets desired future conditions for each of these areas. The goals and objectives are being met, but implementation of travel management decisions in the Little Red Creek Complex LWC have not been implemented, and therefore the DFC for this area is impacted on an intermittent occasion when motorized vehicles utilize the road system within the area. Wilderness characteristics inventory was completed for the planning area in support of the RMP effort; it is revisited yearly. Roadless areas have decreased Field Office wide since the RMP was approved.

Forestry --The RMP specifically identifies desired future conditions to increase regeneration of aspen and maintain insect and diseases at endemic levels in BR 4004 and BR 4010 for desired future conditions for health and distribution of forest and woodland types. The established Wyoming Forestry BMP's are mentioned in the RMP on page 53 BR 4001 and are considered appropriate for meeting goals and objectives. Resources available for woodland product harvest are identified but not Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) or Annual Allowable Cut (AAC); these would be addressed at the time implementation-level or activity plan decisions are made. The RMP specifies that harvest for commercial is withdrawn in WSA, restricted in developed recreation sites, and limited by size, location, and slope, but otherwise open throughout the Field Office in Record No. 4009. There is no conflict with the fire management goals and objectives and the vegetation- general or vegetation -- forests and woodlands goals and objectives.

Livestock Grazing Management -- The RMP identifies 2,323,152 acres are open to grazing, 7,665 acres are closed to grazing, and 63,393 acres are unavailable to grazing. Changes have not occurred, or are not needed, in the identification of these lands since the RMP was completed. In Table G.4, "Animal Unit Months [AUMs] Authorized, 1989-2008," the RMP shows the number of AUMs that were billed for each year between 1989-2008 as it relates to the total AUMs that are authorized for livestock. Objective LR: 10.8 states "Support livestock grazing AUM levels consistent with multiple use and the ability of BLM-administered lands to provide adequate habitat and forage." The RMP does not identify how many AUMs are available for each allotment specifically; this allows the BLM flexibility to adjust AUMs and to react to new conditions upon permit renewals, as needed. The RMP also allows for selective management categories to be adjusted based on current resource conditions.

The RMP does incorporate the Standards for Healthy Public Lands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. LR:10.1 states: "Continue to assess rangeland health on a 10-year cycle in accordance with the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Use rangeland health assessments to prioritize rangeland management." LR:10.2 states: "Implement grazing strategies, including developing range improvement projects to: maintain or enhance vegetative communities and ecosystem functions and to achieve the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands and grazing objectives in cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators and the interested public." Record No. 6052 states "In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and stakeholders including interested parties, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to achieve the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, improve forage for livestock, and enhance rangeland health. Within Greater sage-grouse Core Area, incorporate greater sage-grouse habitat objectives and management considerations into all BLM grazing allotments containing greater sage-grouse habitat through Allotment Management Plans or permit renewals. Consider the application of [Best Management Practices, or] BMPs for the protection of greater sage-grouse as terms and conditions of grazing permit/lease renewals. In areas where Wyoming Standards for Healthy

Rangelands are not being met or are not making progress toward meeting standards, because of current livestock grazing, modify existing permits or condition the issuance of new permits on the implementation of new grazing strategies to meet standards in accordance with grazing regulations. Apply appropriate BMPs as terms and conditions of the permit.” The RMP applies the standards to all resource programs.

The RMP describes how public lands will be managed to become as productive for livestock grazing at LR:10.5: “Manage grazing to provide sustainable forage and establish allowable use levels in those areas authorized for livestock grazing.” Record No. 6064 states: “Prioritize the management of hot-season grazing on riparian-wetland and meadow complexes to promote recovery or maintenance of key vegetation species appropriate for the ecological site and water quality through the use of comprehensive grazing strategies as identified in Appendix G. In areas of continuous season-long grazing where rangeland health standards are not met, modify existing permits to incorporate rest and/or deferment of grazing to facilitate rangeland health recovery and attainment of rangeland health standards.”

Recreation -- The Final EIS identified recreation opportunity spectrum classes or setting characteristics. Desired future setting conditions and implementation framework was put into the decision record table.

All public lands are designated as SRMAs, ERMA's or non-recreation management areas.

Travel and Transportation -- Travel management decisions such as seasonal closures and year-round closures to motorized travel help sustain other resource values. The RMP identifies all public lands for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use but the planning direction within the Travel Management program changed after the signing of the RMP in 2014. The specific direction that was issued after completion of the RMP is that areas were to no longer be identified as “limited to existing” or “limited to designated roads and trails,” instead just “limited.” OHV designations are still meeting resource objectives per Record Nos. 6026 and 6027. While implementation-level travel plans have not been completed, the Lander Field Office has made progress in collecting data for travel plans. The RMP provides clear direction to complete these travel plans. There are no designated trails within the Lander RMP. Travel Management Objectives are stated within the RMP. A map of existing roads and trails at the time the RMP was signed was not carried through from the Final EIS to the ROD but data is still kept at the Field Office, if needed.

Lands and Realty -- Appendix K- Lands Identified for Disposal; Table K.1 shows legal descriptions of areas potentially suitable for disposal, and land tenure adjustments must serve the public interest. The Lander Field Office has not acquired any new lands since the RMP was signed. Acquisitions, including easements, can be completed through exchange, Land and Water Conservation Fund purchases, or donations. Acquisitions of private lands will be pursued only with willing landowners. The RMP addresses criteria outlines in FLPMA for land available for disposal by sale or exchange. It is not discussed how planning decisions applied to lands returned to the public domain from relinquished withdrawals, where administrative jurisdiction is returned to the BLM. The RMP adequately addresses management of acquired lands. Acquired lands in the LFO are managed to respond to land tenure needs and to preserve important resource values. Acquired lands could be used to resolve issues related to intermixed land ownership patterns. Acquired lands would be used for, but are not limited to: important, crucial, or critical habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants particularly if they are located in greater sage-grouse Core Area or in an ACEC; support the area's cultural resources and recreation opportunities and benefits; support the grazing program by offering more rangeland for livestock and riparian areas. Land Tenure decisions in the plan do conform to the BLM State Land Tenure Strategy. The primary focus is that Land Tenure adjustments must serve the public interest. No specific lands for Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP's) are identified through the RMP.

Right-of-way corridor locations are both described as well as visually/spatially shown within the RMP. Designated corridors were designed in their location, so they joined existing corridors in neighboring Field

Offices. Criteria outlines in FLPMA (Section 203 and Section 206) are addressed in the RMO for land available for disposal by sale or exchange in Record No. 6004: “Lands identified for disposal or disposal with restrictions in accordance with Sections 203, 206, and 209 of FLPMA are listed in Appendix K (p. 299). The disposal or disposal with restrictions will require subsequent NEPA analysis of the specific disposal.” The RMP does identify avoidance areas, and exclusion areas, along with general terms and conditions.

Wind, Solar, and Geothermal Energy --The RMP adequately addresses current demand for renewable energy facilities. It also identifies Designated Development Areas, Existing Communication sites, and Right-of-way Corridors. Fish and Wildlife Bald and Golden Eagle Guidelines to renewable energy development are not specifically addressed within the RMP, but it does include management decisions to prevent perching and prohibit surface disturbance within nesting buffer zones within nesting season.

Minerals -- The RMP has an objective (MR1.1) to provide opportunities to explore for, permit, and sell mineral materials. The closure of 40% of the office to mineral material sales (Record No. 2017) may inadvertently limit this objective.

Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) is addressed in the Mineral Development Potential report but it was never addressed how these scenarios will be kept up to date. Rare earth elements/critical minerals were not addressed within the RMP/Mineral Development Potential Report specifically. Closure in the RMP does not allow for flexibility, while the resource decisions that establish the closure allow for development consideration.

Some of the proposed locatable mineral withdrawals described in the RMP should be reconsidered. There are areas recommended for withdrawal from entry under the mining laws, and some of these areas have been withdrawn (Johnny Behind the Rocks), but all others have not, and there is currently no impetus or prioritization schedule to pursue the proposed withdrawals in LFO.

Record No. 2002 as well as Appendix B address sustainable development concepts for post mining uses.

Hazardous Materials -- The RMP addresses Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) identification, inventory, and closure actions in SR 4.3. The inventory of hazardous materials sites is provided for in Record No. 8002 which states: “Manage hazardous materials to reduce health and safety risks to the public, to restore contaminated lands, and to carry out emergency response activities, per appropriate laws, policies, and regulations.”

Geospatial Data -- Data from the 2014 RMP ROD is in accordance with National Data Standards for the BLM. As data is updated, those updates are captured within metadata as well as sent to the State Office to be incorporated into their dataset. National Data Standards are being met except for Ground Transportation Linear Feature (GTLF) standards, for which the Lander Field Office has not collected all areas at this time. However, there are no management actions for GTLF.

Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice (EJ) -- It is expected that current local economic data indicate similar trends to that analyzed in the RMP. While the goals and objectives consider future BLM management and those effects on the local populations, the RMP does not include specific management to address issues relevant to EJ populations within the planning area. The LFO should continue to consider impacts from site specific projects to EJ populations through continued implementation of the RMP goals and objectives. There were no data needs identified with this review.

D. Key Planning-Level Recommendations

The BLM’s principal recommendations have been grouped into three categories:

Implementation, where implementation actions under the Lander RMP would address those recommendations that would not need any additional land use planning action, but that were identified as potentially warranting focused management consideration or prioritization:

- **Consider updated policies on Environmental Justice (EJ) and possible ways to identify and consider EJ populations within the planning area when implementing the RMP goals and objectives.** The Lander RMP did not include management decisions specific to EJ concerns. Rather, each site-specific action is reviewed to determine if a federal action would affect EJ populations and consideration is made how to effectively seek input from EJ populations on the BLM's implementation-level decisions. This recommendation would include the continuation of EJ review on site-specific projects based on current and updated BLM policies, and the collection of updated information to use for the screening and identification of EJ populations.
- **Review and prioritize completion of activity plans as described in the RMP.** There were multiple activity plans, withdrawals, and RMP implementation-level actions identified within the Lander RMP. Under this recommendation, the BLM would coordinate with district, state, and headquarters annually to prioritize completion of these actions, based on local, regional, and national priorities and budget considerations. These actions may be subject to additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documentation and public involvement but are not expected to initiate a land use plan amendment or maintenance action. The degree of staffing involvement, data collection, and budgetary needs would vary based on each action. Completion of the activity plans would be subject to limitations including, but not limited to, approval of funding.

Coordination, Consultation and Cooperation, warranting further communication and synchronization with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners. The relationships between the BLM and cooperating agencies (CAs) and Tribes are critical to inform the BLM's management of public lands. CAs provide skills and resources based upon their jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise to help shape BLM land use plans and environmental analyses that better reflect the policies, needs, and conditions of their jurisdictions and the communities or interests they represent. The LFO is committed to maintaining and improving these relationships with our Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners.

While ongoing communication, consultation, and collaboration with these partners is important in the success of RMP implementation, the following areas were specifically identified in this evaluation to recommend for further consideration and coordination.

- **Coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to explore opportunities to aid in efforts to complete Order 3 soil survey in portions of Sweetwater County if needed, consistent with Record No. 1009.** Updating Order 3 soils surveys would ensure that project level actions would be able to fully consider impacts to soil resources and their connections to ecological functions, including successful reclamation efforts for surface disturbing actions and the use of appurtenant Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs), once finalized. The LFO, in coordination with the Wyoming State Office (WSO), would consult with the NRCS to explore opportunities to support data collection within the portion of Sweetwater County on BLM administered public lands. This would be an ongoing effort as funding and staffing are available. This would not require a land use plan amendment or maintenance action. It is our recommendation that communication between the BLM and NRCS be initiated by the WSO (WY930 Division of Resources personnel) to determine the NRCS's agency priorities. That communication should then be delivered to the LFO management team to address any staffing or other support that may be available to assist.
- **Continue communication with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) regarding the designated Sublette mule deer herd migration corridor.** The Sublette migration corridor was designated in

2018 by the WGFD. The Long Gulch segment is within the LFO management boundary. Currently the WGFD has determined that “the landscape in the Long Gulch Segment is mostly unaltered, the existing and projected risks to this segment appear limited, and substantial protections exist, so functional migration habitat in this segment should be maintained.” (Sublette Mule Deer Migration Corridor Assessment June 22, 2017, pages 28-29). Changes in the current management has not been identified as a need (due to existing decisions in the approved RMP and the patterns of land use within the designated corridor), however ongoing collaboration with the WGFD would ensure that continued functional migration habitats are protected and ensure consistency with other future land use plan decisions that may be considered in adjacent BLM field offices. No additional land use planning actions are recommended at this time.

- **Continue coordination with Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and tribal governments for the establishment of an appropriate protection zone around Site 48FR7195.** This review and concurrence would not require an amendment or maintenance action but would support the current management of this important site that was identified in the approved RMP for additional protection.

Land use planning actions, requiring maintenance actions to better define or clarify management in the approved RMP or other planning actions such as amendments that may require a change in land uses or allocations:

Maintenance Action-Level Recommendations

- **Complete a maintenance action for Record No. 3008 to clarify management of areas that are restricted or closed beyond other resource value restrictions (“where not otherwise constrained or prohibited”).** While the closure of areas to commercial timbers sales is identified in Record Nos. 4012, 6136, and 7045, it is not clearly stated how many acres are closed to these sales in Record No. 3008 or in management specific to vegetation and forest management. Furthermore, it is not fully intuitive that areas not closed would be open. Under this recommendation, the LFO would complete a maintenance action to better identify the areas closed to commercial sales and update the RMP with that information. This action would not modify the allocation of areas identified as closed.
- **Complete a maintenance action to update the planning area’s Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) data with the PFYC data and maps prepared in 2020.** In July 2020, the WSO Paleontologist distributed revised PFYC rankings for geological units in the State of Wyoming, replacing the previous rankings. The new rankings were incorporated in GIS with the highest resolution digital geologic map of Wyoming. Completing the maintenance action would not change the RMP decisions or allocations.
- **Complete a maintenance action to clarify that lands and/or interests in lands acquired, and formerly withdrawn lands relinquished, would be managed in a manner consistent with adjacent or nearby BLM-administered land including surface and mineral estate management, and pursuing withdrawals as appropriate, unless otherwise addressed through further land use planning actions.** Currently there is no description of what land use allocations would apply should the BLM acquire new lands or should formerly withdrawn lands be relinquished. Under this action, additional text would be added to Record No. 6002: “lands and/or interests in lands acquired, and former withdrawn lands relinquished would be managed in a manner consistent with adjacent or nearby BLM-administered land including surface and mineral estate management and pursuing withdrawals as appropriate, unless otherwise addressed through further land use planning actions. Subject to further NEPA analysis.” Addition of this language in the RMP would not alter the land use allocations or designations in the approved RMP.

Amendment-Level Recommendations

- **Consider mineral materials sales and closure constraints and, if warranted, amend the RMP.** The BLM's RMP evaluation identified concerns about the large areas identified for closure to mineral material disposal. Under this recommendation, the BLM would initiate a review of the resource values that established these closures and re-consider the potential for development of mineral materials while protecting other resources. Should modifications be necessary, the BLM would complete the appropriate public notification and NEPA procedures.
- **Consider re-reviewing the entire segment of Baldwin Creek Canyon for Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility.** Due to a mapping error, a ½-mile segment of Baldwin Creek was not fully evaluated for Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility during preparation of the Lander RMP. Additional data collection would be necessary in order to conduct this review. There is an 8.1-mile segment of Baldwin Creek that was recommended in the Lander RMP for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Should this segment meet the criteria, an RMP amendment would be warranted. Should inclusion of this segment be warranted, the BLM would complete the appropriate public notification and NEPA procedures.

III. Concurrence and Approval

John Elliott
Field Manager
Lander Field Office

Date of Concurrence

Caleb Hiner
Acting District Manager
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Office

Date of Concurrence

Kimber Liebhauser
Acting State Director
Wyoming State Office

Date of Approval

Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation

Final Report – Attachment 1: Summary of RMP Implementation NEPA Analyses

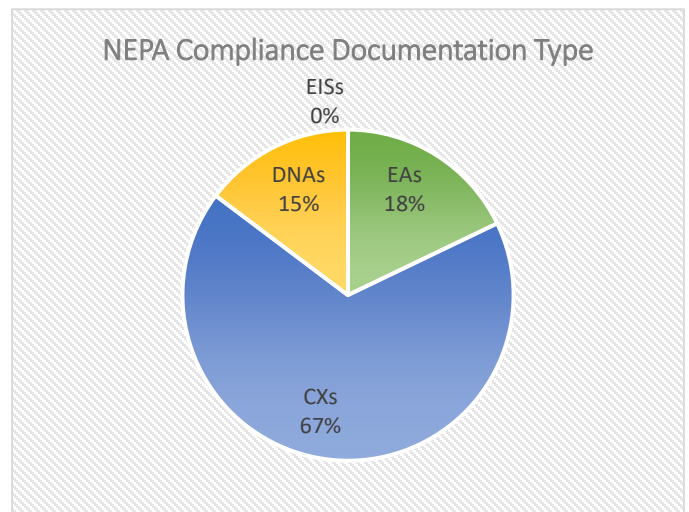
The decisions in the Lander RMP guide the BLM's management but are generally implemented through NEPA compliance for site-specific projects. The decisions follow the BLM's applicable statutory and regulatory authorities. Site-specific project level analysis can be completed as a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), Categorical Exclusion (CX), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); see the BLM's NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1). A site-specific project is reviewed by the Lander Field Office Interdisciplinary Team, and considerations given to what applicable mitigation may apply. This *Summary of RMP Implementation NEPA Analyses* is intended to inform the reader of the types of actions typically analyzed in conformance with the Lander RMP and to highlight the programs (such as lands & realty, livestock grazing, or recreation) that predominate authorizations and actions on public lands under the approved RMP.

A. Summary of Recent RMP Implementation NEPA - Methodology

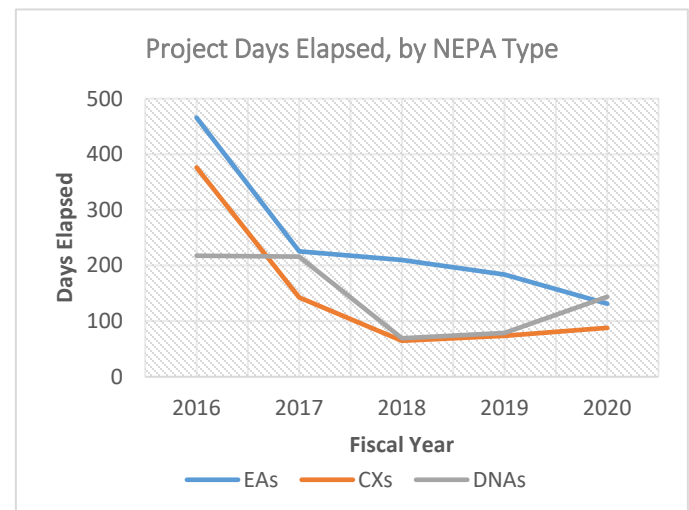
Using the Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE) reporting tools for BLM's ePlanning database, summary statistics were calculated for all complete and available fiscal years (FY2016-FY2020), as of 01/25/2021.

B. NEPA Compliance Documentation Types

<i>Projects by NEPA Compliance Documentation Type</i>				
Fiscal Year	EAs	CXs	DNAs	EISs
2016	16	49	19	0
2017	19	57	13	0
2018	17	48	19	0
2019	16	82	7	0
2020	6	43	3	0
Total	74	279	61	0

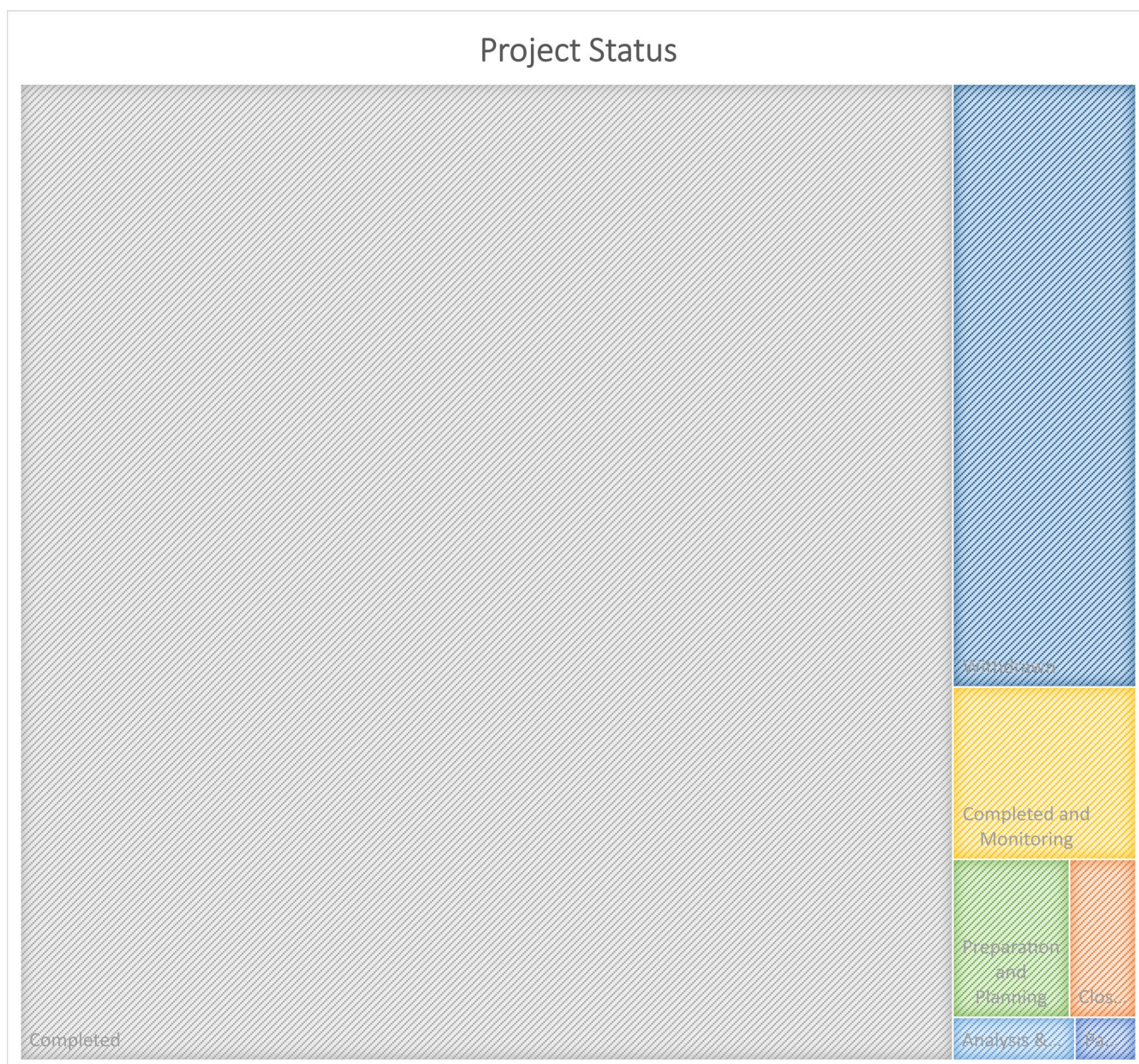


<i>Average Project Time Elapsed by NEPA Type (Days)</i>				
Fiscal Year	EAs	CXs	DNAs	EISs
2016	465.8	376.2	217.6	
2017	225.6	142.7	215.9	
2018	209.9	64.7	69.2	
2019	183.7	73.6	78.7	
2020	131.3	88.0	143.7	
Average	243.3	149.1	145.0	



C. Project Status

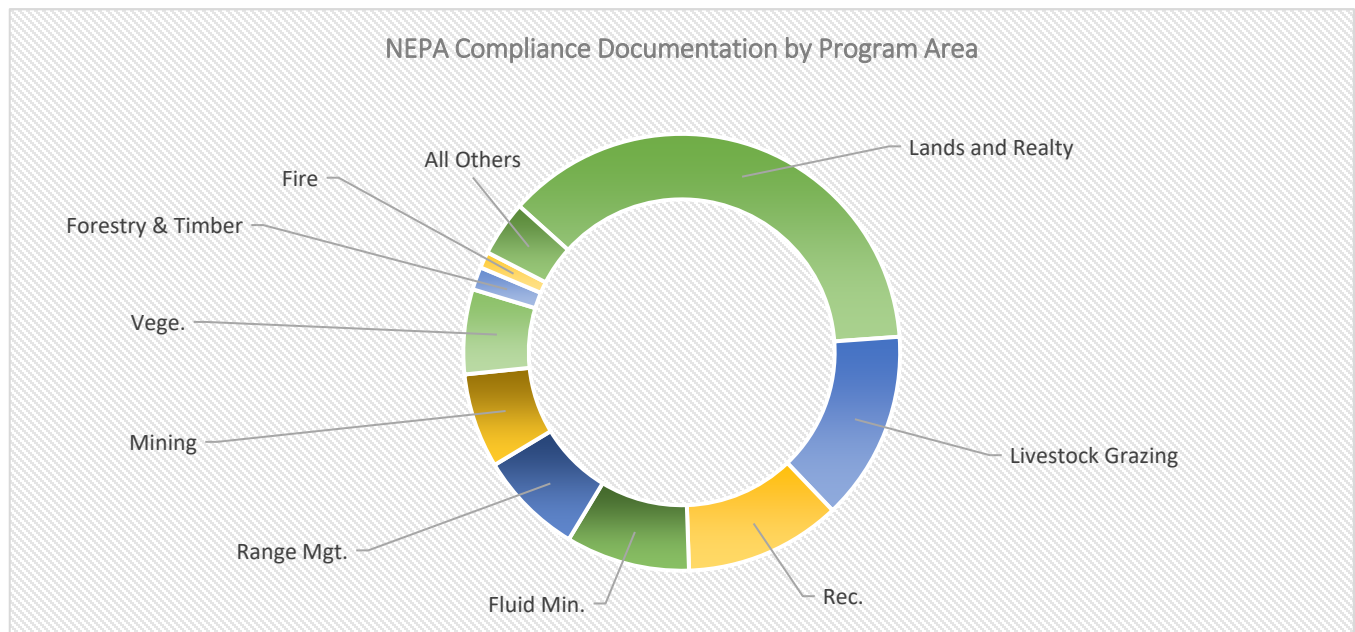
<i>Project Status</i>								
Fiscal Year	Analysis & Document Preparation	Closed	Completed	Completed and Monitoring	Decision and Appeal	Paused	Preparation and Planning	Withdrawn
2016	0	2	58	7	0	0	5	12
2017	0	1	66	5	0	0	2	15
2018	0	1	75	0	0	0	0	8
2019	0	0	97	0	0	1	0	7
2020	2	0	50	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	4	346	12	0	1	7	42
%	0%	1%	84%	3%	0%	0%	2%	10%



D. RMP Implementation NEPA Type by Program Area

Fiscal Year	Lands and Realty	Livestock Grazing	Rec.	Fluid Min.	Range Mgt.	Mining	Vege.	Forestry & Timber	Fire	All Others†
2016	38	9	8	4	4	6	7	0	2	6
2017	23	8	9	17	9	7	11	1	1	3
2018	43	2	9	11	6	2	6	2	1	2
2019	33	35	7	4	7	10	2	4	1	2
2020	17	4	15	2	6	4	0	0	0	4
Total	154	58	48	38	32	29	26	7	5	17
%	38%	14%	12%	9%	8%	7%	6%	2%	1%	4%

† “All Others” includes the program areas provided in ePlanning that each individually comprise <1% of LFO projects over the FY16-FY20 time period, including the Fish & Wildlife, Riparian-Wetlands, Other, Wild Horses, HazMat, Paleontology, Soil-Water-Air, and Cultural program areas)



Average NEPA Time Elapsed by Program Area (Days)

Fiscal Year	Lands and Realty	Livestock Grazing	Rec.	Fluid Min.	Range Mgt.	Mining	Vege.	Forestry & Timber	Fire
2016	236.4	804.0	708.1	125.0	394.3	553.0	349.3		474.5
2017	143.8	203.9	156.6	172.9	139.6	146.7	203.3	393.0	178.0
2018	55.3	110.5	190.9	117.5	124.8	90.5	150.3	87.0	39.0
2019	68.9	61.2	126.4	118.5	69.6	156.2	65.0	330.3	92.0
2020	113.2	35.3	63.6	317.0	90.0	62.0			
Average	123.5	243.0	249.1	170.2	163.7	201.7	192.0	270.1	195.9

E. Summary

For the five years of available data from ePlanning (which includes metrics regarding the quantities of documents prepared by program types and elapsed periods for completion, but cannot provide information about the quality of NEPA compliance documentation), several conclusions can be made:

1. The LFO typically issues between 5-10% of all BLM-Wyoming NEPA compliance documents, and 0.8-1.5% of all BLM-nationwide NEPA compliance documents.
2. The LFO prepares a large proportion, on average, of CXs (67%) when issuing RMP implementation decisions, with the remainder approximately split between EAs (18%) and DNAs (15%).
3. The time period elapsed for completing the NEPA compliance documentation has decreased over the last five fiscal years (the average time elapsed per project from FY16 to FY20 was -77% for CXs, -72% for EAs, and -34% for DNAs).
4. Most NEPA compliance documentation in the LFO is prepared for Lands and Realty projects (38%), followed by Livestock Grazing (14%) and Recreation (12%).

Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation

Final Report – Attachment 2: BLM Agency Personnel

A. Project and Interdisciplinary Team Members

Role	Individual
Acting State Director, Wyoming State Office (WSO)	Kimber Liebhauser
Acting Associate State Director	Kevin Christensen
Deputy State Director (DSD) – Resource Policy and Management (WY930)	Lori Armstrong
Branch Chief for Planning, Social, and Cultural Resources (WY933)	Jennifer Fleuret McConchie
Planning and Environmental Coordinator/Specialist (P&EC), WY933	Travis Bargsten
WSO-Air Quality and Climate Change	Ryan McCammon
WSO-Archaeology	Kathy Boden
WSO-Wildlife (including T&E/6840)	Shari Ketcham
WSO-Forest Resources	Josh Jackson
WSO-Geospatial Data	Brett Fahrer
WSO-Lands and Realty	Mike Valle
WSO-Livestock Grazing	Mark Goertel
WSO-Fluid Minerals	Erik Norelius
WSO-Paleontological Resources	Brent Breithaupt
WSO-Recreation and Travel Management	Keith Brown
WSO-Socioeconomics	Jenn Schein-Dobb
Acting District Manager (DM)	Caleb Hiner
Acting Associate District Manager	Johanna Blanchard
Resource Advisor – Biological Resources	James Wolf
Resource Advisor – Energy (Detail)	Sarah Bucklin
Field Manager (FM)	John Elliott
Assistant Field Manager – Resources	
Acting Assistant Field Manager – Minerals & Lands	Laura Lozier
Field Office (FO) LUP Evaluation Co-Lead	Sarah Wempen
District Office (DO) LUP Evaluation Co-Lead	Holly Elliott
IDT- ACECs	Aaron Rutledge
IDT-Air Resources/ Climate Change	Ryan McCammon
IDT-Archaeological and Historical Resources (Native American Concerns and Coordination/Cultural Resources)	Nick Freeland
IDT-Fire and Fuels	Joel Peters/ Tim Kramer
IDT-Fluid Mineral Resources	Ira Waldron
IDT-Forest Resources	Jim Gates
IDT-Geospatial Data	Sarah Wempen
IDT-Hazardous Materials (including AML)	Tom Sunderland
IDT-Invasive, Nonnative Plant Species (INPS) and Pest Control	Emma Freeland
IDT-Lands and Realty	Leta Rinker
IDT-Outdoor Recreation Resources	Jared Oakleaf
IDT-Paleontological Resources	Nick Freeland
IDT-Rangeland Resources/ Livestock Grazing Management	Grant Burke
IDT-Riparian and Wetland Communities	Grant Burke
IDT-Socioeconomic Resources	Jenn Schein Dobb
IDT-Soil Resources	Tim Kramer
IDT-Solid Mineral Resources (including coal)	Tom Sunderland/ Ira Waldron
IDT-Special Area Designations	Jared Oakleaf
IDT-Transportation/Travel Management	Jared Oakleaf

Role	Individual
IDT-Vegetation/Botany Resources	Emma Freeland
IDT-Visual Resources	Jared Oakleaf
IDT-Water Resources	Tom Sunderland
IDT-Wilderness/lands with wilderness characteristics	Jared Oakleaf
IDT-Wild Horses	Clay Stott
IDT-Wildlife (including T&E/6840)	Aaron Rutledge
IDT-Wind, Solar, and Geothermal Energy	Ira Waldron

Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation

Final Report – Attachment 3: Lander RMP Implementation Actions

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
1009	PR: 3.1 PR: 3.2	Pursue and support the completion of Order 3 soil surveys.	Ongoing Coordination with NRCS
1010	PR: 3.1 PR: 4.1	Develop/adopt a soil interpretation for soil rehabilitation potential. Consider soil suitability for proposed use and soil rehabilitation at the planning and design phase of all BLM-authorized activities. Identify areas with limited reclamation potential.	Partially completed/achieved. During surface disturbing activities the LFO relies on the NRCS's Web Soil Survey and existing ESDs for reclamation potential. The WSS is also used for potential erosion of the soils by wind and water and are used to determine mitigation for soil lost by those erosion potentials.
1022	PR: 5 PR: 5.1	Identify areas with soil disturbance that were not successfully reclaimed. Priorities for reclamation of these areas are determined on a case-by-case basis with an emphasis on greater sage-grouse Core Area and other important wildlife habitat. Develop partnerships and funding sources to implement reclamation where no responsible party has the reclamation obligation.	
1026	PR: 6.6 PR: 6.7 PR: 6.8	Identify potential surface and groundwater quality impairments through inventories and routine monitoring activities and report potential impairments to Wyoming DEQ.	
1039	PR: 6.1	Develop and implement watershed management plans as necessary and cooperate with existing and ongoing watershed management initiatives started by other stakeholders.	
1041	PR: 6.6	Inventory reservoirs and assess condition and suitability of design to limit mosquito breeding. Identify functionally compromised reservoirs and partner with interested entities to rehabilitate or reclaim compromised reservoirs. Prioritize reservoirs in consideration of potential for failure, impacts to water quality, and importance for wild horses, wildlife, and livestock grazing. Utilize prioritization when identifying opportunities for offsite mitigations; see Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2013-142 or subsequent guidance regarding regional mitigation.	
1044	PR: 6.1 PR: 6.2 PR: 6.3	Prioritize the identification of Sole Source Aquifers and groundwater recharge areas. Avoid surface-disturbing activities with potential to contaminate groundwater in identified or inferred groundwater recharge areas.	

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
2018	MR: 1.3	Identify areas disturbed by expired mineral material sales, including free-use permits and community use pits. Prioritize reclamation of these sites, starting with those in greater sage-grouse Core Area where restoration as long-term greater sage-grouse habitat is possible. Next in priority are those in riparian-wetland areas, ACECs, the National Trails Management Corridor, VRM Class II areas, non-Core Area greater sage-grouse habitat, and wildlife migration corridors. Seek partnerships with others to complete restoration, including applicants seeking suitable offsite mitigation opportunities.	Ongoing – to date LFO has facilitated reclamation and closed a total of eight Mineral Material Sale Permits within sage grouse core or other areas prioritized under this management action
2032	MR: 3.4	Develop an inventory of fossil localities in areas identified as high or very high potential fossil yield classification to be used in managing mineral activities to protect paleontological resources (see the <i>Paleontological Resources</i> section).	
3011	FM: 1.2 FM: 2.3 FM: 2.4 FM: 2.5	Inventory the Fire Regime Condition Class (Map 14) of the vegetative communities found within the fire management units (Map 15). In coordination with stakeholders and in consideration of greater sage-grouse Core Area objectives, prioritize areas requiring treatment and utilize appropriate vegetation treatment techniques to improve the condition class across a landscape. Prioritize those projects in areas with the greatest benefits to wildlife and the highest likelihood of landscape-level wildfire.	Partially completed. LFO has inventoried the FRCC of the Green Mountain FMU and portions of the other FMUs. This analysis has assisted in developing fuels management treatments for hazardous fuels reduction and wildlife habitat enhancement (2018-2021).
4002	BR: 1 BR: 1.2 BR: 1.5 BR: 2 BR: 2.2 BR: 2.3	Update and complete inventory of forests and woodlands, identifying characteristics such as areas of woodland encroachment, areas of unique or old-growth characteristics or ecological significance, areas of damage from insect and disease, fuel loading within the wildland urban interface, general forest and woodland health, and areas suitable for commercial timber sales.	
4012	BR: 1.3 BR: 1.4 BR: 1.5 BR: 2	Develop a forest management plan for the Green Mountain Primary Forest Resource Area, and as funding permits, for the South Pass and Dubois Primary Forest Resource Areas (Map 16) for commercial and over-the-counter forest product sales, enhancement of forest health, addressing fuel loading within the wildland urban interface, and management of pine beetle and other infestation.	Partially completed. A forest management plan has been developed for the Green Mountain Primary Forest Resource Area.

4114	BR: 11 BR: 11.3 BR: 11.5 BR: 13	The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies and the State of Wyoming, as contemplated under the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order 2013-3, to: 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; 2) define a framework for evaluating situations where greater sage-grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a significant causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and greater sage-grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-based actions to achieve greater sage-grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	The Lander Field Office considers and uses the State of Wyoming Governor's Sage-Grouse Executive Order 2019-3 which outlines the most recent objectives for protection of sage-grouse. Guidance includes timing limitations, disturbance buffers, and delineation of priority habitat that are applied to energy development, geophysical exploration, mining, rights of way, recreation, vegetation treatments, and other surface-disturbing activities. Biologists analyze impacts to sage-grouse in NEPA documents and recommend stipulations according to the evaluation of impacts at the project-specific level and the EO guidance (ongoing since 2015). The Lander Field Office uses the Habitat Objectives Framework (Stiver et al. 2015) to evaluate habitat suitability in sage-grouse Core Area. Biologists use site-scale suitability data to help determine if Standard 4 for wildlife is being met or not met during the Land Health Assessment process (ongoing since 2015). The Lander Field Office conducts a Density Disturbance Calculation for each surface disturbance in Core Area which is evaluated by the State to determine if disturbance thresholds are being exceeded (ongoing since 2015) The Lander BLM is represented on the Wind River/Sweetwater River Sage-grouse Local Working Group. This group is an instrumental means to engage stakeholders directly affected by the policies set forth by Wyoming's Strategy. The group provides a forum to share localized information, expertise and knowledge. The group communicates and engages with state and other federal agencies, landowners, and other interested parties to identify and prioritize issues affecting greater sage-grouse in the Lander Field Office. In 2021 the LWG started evaluating both habitat and population triggers and
------	--	---	--

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
			make recommendations to the Adaptive Management Working Group on how to respond to annual changes in habitat and population numbers. This task will occur into the foreseeable future. (Participation in LWG ongoing since 2015)
4015	BR: 1.2	Identify unique plant communities and manage to protect, preserve, or enhance these communities.	Partially completed. Unique old growth limber pine and juniper identified and protected in the Sweetwater Rocks and Long Creek Mountain. Fuels projects in the Sweetwater Rocks and Long Creek Mountain avoid cutting these trees and wildling collections exclude the collection of unique old bonsai limber pine growing in this area.
4024	BR: 5	Develop a plan to manage cheatgrass in coordination with other agencies and individuals, with the local County Weed & Pest Control Districts acting as the point of contact among all parties.	
4027	BR: 4.1 BR: 5	Develop and implement a program promoting public awareness of Wyoming Declared Noxious Weeds and Pests as well as invasive nonnative species.	Completed
4045	BR: 7.1 BR: 8.2	To protect wildlife, viewshed, cultural resources, and other values, mineral management on 306,360 acres in the Hudson to Atlantic City area (including Twin Creek and Beaver Rim ACECs and a portion of the South Pass Historical Landscape ACEC [Map 46]) is as follows: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulation ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to solid mineral leasing ● Closed to new mineral material disposals ● Withdrawn from locatable mineral entry ○ Conduct validity exams as staffing allows ○ Evaluate opportunities, including working with partners, to relinquish valid claims beneficial to resource values ○ Encourage relinquishment of valid claims for offsite mitigation of surface disturbance in important wildlife habitat	Ongoing – Mineral Report initiated

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
4084	BR: 11.2	Maintain the existing locatable mineral withdrawal for desert yellowhead critical habitat (Map 26). Recommend a mineral withdrawal extension prior to the expiration of the existing mineral withdrawal. Management in this area is as follows: ● Open to oil and gas, geothermal, and other fluid mineral leasing with a NSO stipulation ● Closed to phosphate leasing ● Closed to mineral material disposals ● Excluded to major ROWs ● Avoided for minor ROWs ● Closed to motorized and mechanized travel Prohibit surface-disturbing activities and apply an NSO stipulation to mineral leasing activities within the Cedar Rim population of desert yellowhead (85 acres) (Map 26).	
4114	BR: 11 BR: 11.3 BR: 11.5 BR: 13	The BLM will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies and the State of Wyoming, as contemplated under the Wyoming Governor's Executive Order 2013-3, to: 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; 2) define a framework for evaluating situations where greater sage-grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a significant causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and greater sage-grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-based actions to achieve greater sage-grouse conservation objectives within the framework.	
4129	BR: 15.1	Update the Herd Area Management Plan as needed to meet herd health objectives, including Appropriate Management Levels, and to address impacts to other resources. Consider forage competition and evaluate overall utilization levels by all grazing animals, and incorporate greater sage-grouse habitat management objectives.	
4131	BR: 15.3	Establish scenic loops for viewing wild horses in some or all of the following areas (Map 27): ● Antelope Hills to Cyclone Rim ● Green Mountain Herd Area ● Muskrat Basin to Dishpan Butte Limit road improvements to those necessary for public safety, keeping as small a footprint as possible. Encourage primitive recreation outfitters to add wild-horse viewing to their operations. Identify locations for web cams or electronic viewing opportunities, to expand opportunities to view wild horses from a distance. Partner with state and local tourism promoters to encourage wild-horse viewing.	
5023	HR: 10.1-10.5	In conjunction with the Casper Field Office, develop a management and protection plan (including a site stewardship plan) for the Traditional Cultural Property and periphery.	

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
5024	HR: 10.1-10.5	Mineral development in the Traditional Cultural Property is managed as follows: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to solid minerals leasing ● Recommend for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry ● Closed to mineral material disposal	Completed
5033	HR: 11.1	Develop and implement a new protection and management plan, including redesigning the site, implementing a stewardship program, and continuing the research program.	Partially completed – Protection and management plan completed.
5034	HR: 11.1 HR: 11.2 HR: 11.4	Mineral development in the 78-acre area is managed with the following restrictions: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to solid mineral leasing ● Withdrawn from locatable mineral entry in pre-FLPMA actions ● Closed to mineral material disposal	Completed. Withdrawn lands will be reviewed prior to expiration.
5035	HR: 11.1 HR: 11.2 HR: 11.4	Mineral development in the periphery area is managed with the following restrictions: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to solid mineral leasing ● Open to locatable mineral entry ● Closed to mineral material disposal	Completed.
5044	HR: 7.2	Develop a cultural resource management plan for the Flume, including stabilization of selected segments of the Flume. Manage the Flume and surroundings in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and nearby landowners to better preserve the property.	
5045	HR: 7.2 HR: 7.3	Mineral development in the 834-acre Warm Springs Canyon Flume area is managed as follows in accordance with Dubois area-wide management. The 557-acre Flume site is withdrawn from locatable minerals in a pre-FLPMA withdrawal; the 277-acre area around it is open to locatable mineral entry.	Completed. Withdrawn lands will be reviewed prior to expiration.
5049	HR: 1 HR: 7	Develop cultural resource management plans for each property as time and funding permit.	
5060	HR: 14.1 HR: 15.2 HR: 16.2-16.3	In the Beaver Rim proposed National Natural Landmark (1,120 acres within the Beaver Rim ACEC; Map 29), complete a paleontological reconnaissance of the area and develop a management plan to preserve and protect significant paleontological resources.	
5061	HR: 14.1	In the Bison Basin high potential fossil area (1,280 acres; Map 29), continue inventory and monitoring the effects associated with surface-disturbing activities in areas with “very high” and “high” potential fossil yield classification to manage fossil resources. Complete a paleontological reconnaissance of the area and develop a management plan to preserve and protect significant paleontological resources.	Ongoing paleontological reconnaissance surveys in high potential fossil areas.

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
5063	HR: 15.1 HR: 16.3	Continue current management of the Lander Slope ACEC (see <i>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</i> section for management of the Lander Slope), which will help protect the area's fossil resources. Complete a paleontological reconnaissance of the area and develop a management plan to preserve and protect significant paleontological resources.	
5064	HR: 15.1 HR: 16.3	In the Gas Hills high potential fossil area, continue inventory and monitoring the effects associated with surface-disturbing activities in areas with "very high" and "high" potential fossil yield classification to manage fossil resources. Complete a paleontological reconnaissance of the area and develop a management plan to preserve and protect significant paleontological resources.	
6028	LR: 6.1-6.3 LR: 7.1-7.3 LR: 8.1 LR: 9.1	Evaluate modifications (as needed to meet planning objectives) to all "limited" travel designations during implementation of this plan.	
6058	LR: 10.9 LR: 10.10	Prioritize completion of land health assessments and processing of grazing permits within greater sage-grouse Core Area and on allotments with riparian-wetland areas not achieving or making significant progress towards proper functioning condition. Emphasize allotments that have the best opportunities for riparian-wetland improvement or for conserving, enhancing, or restoring habitat for greater sage-grouse. When conducting land health assessments, include indicators and measurements of structure, condition, and composition of vegetation specific to achieving greater sage-grouse habitat objectives. If local/state seasonal habitat objectives are not available, use greater sage-grouse habitat recommendations from Connelly et al. 2000 and Hagen et al. 2007 or updated research findings.	Ongoing. LFO has initiated a 10-year plan for prioritizing and completion of land health assessments and processing of grazing permits within greater sage-grouse Core Area and on allotments with riparian-wetland areas not achieving or making significant progress towards proper functioning condition.
6065	LR: 10.3 LR: 10.5	Continue implementation of existing allotment management plans. Develop and implement new comprehensive grazing strategies and Allotment Management Plans with grazing permittees/lessees and interested public to achieve desired resource goals. Grant administrative use authorizations on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Authorized Officer. All administrative use agreements will specify the following: what type of use is allowed and for what purpose; times, dates or seasons of access; where the use will occur; and additional stipulations required to provide for adequate resource protection and to meet planning decisions.	Ongoing.
6083	LR: 13.2 13.4	Cooperatively pursue offsite mitigation opportunities and other partnerships to enhance wildlife-dependent recreational access to: (1) landlocked BLM-administered lands, and (2) encourage participation of private lands with high wildlife values.	
6084	LR: 13.4	Cooperatively develop mitigation measures to reduce the impact or intensity of disruptive activities in Mule Deer Hunt Area 90 and Antelope Hunt Areas 67, 68, 69, and 106.	Ongoing. Currently implemented on a project-by-project basis

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
6086	LR: 11 LR: 12	The following developed recreation sites (Map 40) are open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations, closed to all other mineral leasing and disposal, recommended for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry (to the extent the areas are not withdrawn under pre-FLMPA withdrawals), and excluded for ROWs except for minor ROWs determined to be supportive of recreation management objectives: ● Castle Gardens Archeology Site (78 acres) ● Atlantic City Campground (184 acres) ● Big Atlantic Gulch (181 acres) ● Cottonwood Campground (80 acres) ● Lands adjacent to the Fremont County Green Mountain Campground (20 acres) ● Miners Delight (282 acres) ● Wildhorse Point (20 acres) ● Devils Gate Interpretive Site (112 acres) ● Martins Cove Trail (1,033 acres) ● Split Rock Interpretive Site (242 acres) ● Steamboat Lake Overlook (128 acres)	
6092	LR: 11 LR: 11.1 LR: 11.2 LR: 12.1-12.3	Mineral and ROW actions in the Johnny Behind the Rocks RMZ are managed with the following restrictions: ● Oil and gas leasing subject to NSO ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to phosphate exploration ● Recommend for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry ● Closed to mineral material sales ● Excluded from ROW actions	Completed. Withdrawal was finalized June 2018 Withdrawn lands will be reviewed prior to expiration.
6093	LR: 11 LR: 11.1 LR: 11.2 LR: 12.1-12.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● New trails will be identified and authorized in a master trails plan and supported through implementation-level decisionmaking. ● Pursue land exchanges and access agreements for parcels in and adjacent to this RMZ. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols May through November.	The master trails plan was completed in 2018. The monitoring is iterative and ongoing. Partnerships have been established and are currently receiving funding through APP and other sources.

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
6100	LR: 11 LR: 11.1-11.2 LR: 12.1-12.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● Facility and trail development will focus on sufficient densities and developments to provide for a 0.25 day (2-4 hours) of use. ● Develop partnerships to pursue land acquisitions and easements necessary to maintain characteristic landscape, natural setting, and targeted experiences and benefits. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols May through November.	
6107	LR: 11 LR: 11.1-11.2 LR: 12.1-12.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● Work with local climbing community and adjacent land management agencies to maintain this area. ● Develop partnerships to pursue land acquisitions and easements necessary to maintain characteristic landscape, natural setting, and targeted experiences and benefits. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols.	Ongoing. Partnerships are ongoing in the zone, work with climbing community continues, but site is mostly developed.

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
6114	LR: 11 LR: 11.1 LR: 11.2 LR: 12.1-12.3 LR: 13.1-13.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● Pursue partnerships with the town of Dubois and other partners to ensure continued enforcement of travel management designations. ● Establish a low level of connecting nonmotorized loop trails, as discussed in Dubois local project plans. ● Develop partnerships to pursue land acquisitions and easements necessary to maintain characteristic landscape, natural setting, and targeted experiences and benefits. ● Light interpretation may be developed to facilitate targeted outcomes; utilize community members, academic organizations, and community centers to meet needs for higher levels of education and interpretation. ● Assist the community with project design, technical expertise, and other services in order to help achieve the objectives outlined in the Dubois Gateway Plan document. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols (June through September).	

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
6121	LR: 11 LR: 11.1 LR: 11.2 LR: 12.1-12.3 LR: 13.1-13.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● The WSA will be closed to organized group and competitive event Special Recreation Permits. ● Other Special Recreation Permits will be limited as necessary to reach and maintain desired future setting condition. ● A foot/horseback trail may eventually need to be developed or identified (from existing trails within the area) to ensure resource protection. Additional trails may also be added to connect the main trail to access points. ● Some onsite visitor orientation (kiosk and signs) may be developed. ● Work with the WGFD and other interested entities to maintain and enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat in the area. ● Solicit partnerships to ensure adequate maintenance of the area's signs and fences. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols.	
6125	LR: 11 LR: 11.1 LR: 11.2 LR: 12.1-12.3 LR: 13.1-13.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and the desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● Utilize visitor information and partnerships to emphasize the importance of: receiving landowner permission before crossing any and all private lands, abiding by Wyoming State land restrictions on overnight camping, and increasing understanding of land ownership patterns in the area. ● Some onsite visitor orientation (kiosk and signs) may be developed. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to: monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols.	

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
7002	SD: 1 SD: 2-4 SD: 4.1-4.2 SD: 5 SD: 5.1-5.6	Mineral actions in the National Trails Management Corridor are managed with the following prescriptions: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to phosphate leasing ● Mineral materials disposals in the National Trails Management Corridor are managed as follows: ○ No mineral materials disposals will be authorized if it is determined by the Authorized Officer that impacts (both direct and cumulative) associated with the action will conflict with the nature and purpose of the Congressionally Designated Trails. ○ Mineral materials disposals associated with improvements on private land will be authorized if it is determined by the Authorized Officer that the following can be achieved: ■ They create no more than a weak contrast as viewed from the Congressionally Designated Trails. ■ They meet VRM designations for the disturbance area, as viewed from Key Observation Points impacted by the disturbance. ○ Other mineral materials disposals will be authorized if it is determined by the Authorized Officer that the following can be achieved: ■ They are hidden from view from the Congressionally Designated Trails. ■ They meet the VRM designation for the disturbance area, as viewed from Key Observation Points impacted by the disturbance. ● Locatable mineral entry: ○ Retain existing locatable mineral withdrawals (Map 9) at the following locations. Recommend mineral withdrawal extensions prior to the expiration of any existing mineral withdrawal that can expire. ■ Split Rock (645 acres) ■ Rocky Ridge (833 acres) ■ Martins Cove (603 acres) ■ Devil's Gate (395 acres) ■ Aspen Grove (917 acres) (Aspen Grove is within a WSA and managed in accordance with BLM Manual 6330, <i>Management of Wilderness Study Areas</i>) ■ Inscription Withdrawal (315 acres) ● Recommend new locatable mineral withdrawals for: ○ The ruts and swales of the NHTs and 10 feet on either side ○ Gilesapie Place area (41 acres) ○ Rock Creek Hollow (51 acres) ○ Ice Slough (110 acres)	Completed renewal of the Split Rock, Martin's Cove, and Devils Gate withdrawal areas. Withdrawn lands will be reviewed prior to expiration.

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
7020	SD: 2 SD: 3 SD: 5 SD: 5.2 SD: 5.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● The CDNST through the area will be closed to competitive events. Other Special Recreation Permits will be allowed in this area so long as setting condition and outcome objectives can be maintained. ● Work with the Wind River Back Country Horsemen and other local groups to teach equine Leave No Trace, as well as potentially provide additional horseback facilities and trails in the RMZ. ● Investigate re-routing opportunities of the CDNST near Phelps-Dodge Bridge so thru-hikers do not have to parallel the Atlantic City-Three Forks County Road. ● Develop better onsite visitor orientation so visitors to the South Pass State Park are aware of half-and whole-day CDNST and Volksmarch trail opportunities in the area. ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols during the trail's high-use season (June through September). ● Work with partners to provide additional interpretation of the historic buildings and other remnants.	

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
7026	SD: 4 SD: 4.1-4.2 SD: 5 SD: 5.1-5.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● Work with partners and other agencies to continue maintenance of existing sites. ● Work with partner entities and the State Historic Preservation Office to sustainably develop areas where new sites are needed to deliver targeted outcomes. ● The BLM and partners will review (using BLM's contrast rating system) existing facilities and interpretive exhibits to ensure designs harmonize with the characteristic landscape. Designs out of character with the landscape will be modified so as not to overpower the landscape. ● Utilize promotion to focus the majority of trail-orientated users into this zone. ● Partner with education institutions or local museums to develop an interpretive plan to ensure existing interpretation is accurate and delivers a consistent message. ● Coordinate with the National Park Service to continue publishing <i>National Historic Trails Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide Across Wyoming</i>. ● Promote utilizing this RMZ with facilities in the Green Mountain ERMA, as well as available amenities in the Fremont County area. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies) and monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols June through September. ● Partner with the BLM National Historic Trails Center and other museums to display to potential visitors the opportunities that are available within the RMZ and similar management zones managed by the BLM Casper Field Office. ● The BLM will focus motorized trail oriented special recreation permits and trail interpretation in this zone. ● Ensure promotion of the area reaches interested user by piggybacking the marketing of the RMZ with the National Park Service marketing for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments (focus group interviews or visitor studies). ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols June through September.	

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
7029	SD: 4 SD: 4.1-4.2 SD: 5 SD: 5.1-5.3	Initiate the following recreation decisions to support the identified outcome objective and desired future setting condition: ● Utilize monitoring and evaluation to adjust management techniques and implementation decisions as necessary to reach desired future setting conditions and provide identified recreation opportunities (activities, experiences, and benefits). ● Permanently close trail section over Rocky Ridge to motorized use. ● The BLM and partners (State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service) will review (using BLM's contrast rating system) interpretive exhibits to ensure designs harmonize with the characteristic landscape; designs out of character with the landscape will be modified so as not to overpower the landscape. ● Group use in the area will be in conformance with the authorization in the Decision Record for Handcart Trekking (2005) or subsequent decisions. ● No competitive events will be authorized in this zone. ● Partner with educational institutions or local museum to develop an interpretive plan to ensure existing interpretation is accurate and delivers a consistent message. ● Review all interpretation to ensure site-specific stories are told for all four historic trails. ● Provide offsite interpretation opportunities for visitors physically unable to access Rocky Ridge, such as interpretive panels overlooking Rocky Ridge in close proximity to an improved motorized route. ● Solicit partnerships and cooperative agreements to monitor outcome attainment and preferences through customer assessments, such as focus-group interviews or visitor studies. ● Monitor recreation setting condition through onsite patrols June through September. ● With stakeholder involvement and if additional concerns arise, consider applying Limits of Acceptable Change planning framework to ensure protection of the historic trails. Limits of Acceptable Change focuses on a cycle of designing-implementing-monitoring-evaluating-adjusting actions to respond to future recreation issues to implement the results of monitoring.	Rocky Ridge section is permanently closed to motorized vehicles as of 2014. An implementation plan to manage impact completed 2019 utilizing Limits of Acceptable change standards.

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
7039	SD: 7.1	Recommend the following waterways as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (Map 45) with the tentative classification for each: ● Baldwin Creek Unit: 8.1 miles, tentatively wild and scenic ○ Upper Baldwin Creek Segment: 6.96 miles, tentatively wild and scenic ○ Lower Baldwin Creek Segment: 1.14 miles, tentatively wild ● Sweetwater River Unit: 12.88 miles, tentatively wild ○ Sweetwater River Segment: 8.64 miles, tentatively wild ○ Granite Creek Segment: 1.04 miles, tentatively wild ○ Mormon Creek Segment: 1.08 miles, tentatively wild ○ Willow Creek Segment: 1.32 miles, tentatively wild ○ Strawberry Creek Segment: 0.81 mile, tentatively wild ● Warm Springs Segment 1: 1.3 miles, tentatively recreational and wild	Completed. LFO has made recommendations and identified management for each suitable section.
7042	SD: 7.1	Mineral development in the Baldwin Creek Unit is managed in accordance with the Lander Slope ACEC management. Mineral development in the Sweetwater Canyon WSA is managed under BLM Manual 6330, <i>Management of Wilderness Study Areas</i>. Mineral development in the 0.25-mile buffer of the Warm Springs Segment 1 is managed as follows: ● Closed to oil and gas and phosphate leasing, geophysical exploration, and mineral material sales as part of the Dubois area ● Withdrawn from locatable minerals from pre-FLPMA withdrawal	Completed. Withdrawn lands will be reviewed prior to expiration.
7059	SD: 9	Mineral development in the ACEC is managed as follows: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to phosphate leasing ● Recommend for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry ● Closed to mineral materials disposal	Ongoing – Mineral Report initiated
7068	SD: 10	Mineral development in the ACEC is managed as follows: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to phosphate leasing ● Recommend for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry ● Closed to mineral material sales	Ongoing – Mineral Report initiated
7079	SD: 11	Mineral development in the ACEC is as follows: ● Closed to oil and gas leasing ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to phosphate leasing ● Pursue extensions of the existing mineral withdrawals before their expiration ● Closed to mineral material sales	Completed renewal of the withdrawal areas.

Record #	Goal Objective	Management Action Text	Implementation Status
7087	SD: 12	Mineral development in the expanded ACEC is managed as follows: ● Closed to oil and gas leasing ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to phosphate leasing ● Locatable mineral entry: 1,290 acres are withdrawn by pre-FLPMA actions; 6,455 acres are either proposed for withdrawal or proposed for renewal of existing withdrawals ● Closed to mineral material sales	Ongoing – Mineral Report initiated
7117	SD: 15	Mineral development in the South Pass Historical Landscape ACEC is managed as follows: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to solid mineral leasing ● Open to locatable mineral entry with a Plan of Operations; portions of the ACEC will be recommended for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry for the benefit of wildlife, viewsheds, and cultural resources (see Decision Record 4045). ● Closed to mineral material disposals	Ongoing – Mineral Report initiated, extension of existing withdrawal areas has been pursued.
7126	SD: 18	Mineral development in the Twin Creek ACEC is as follows: ● Open to oil and gas leasing subject to NSO stipulations ● Closed to geophysical exploration ● Closed to solid mineral leasing ● Recommend for withdrawal to locatable mineral entry; conduct validity exams as staffing allows; evaluate opportunities, including working with partners to retire claims to protect resource values; and encourage retiring of valid claims for offsite mitigation of surface disturbance in important wildlife habitat, migration corridors, and the associated landscape of key visual resources observation points and scenic areas ● Closed to new mineral material disposals	Ongoing – Mineral Report initiated, extension of existing withdrawal areas has been pursued.
8005	SR: 4.3	Cooperate with the State of Wyoming on its abandoned mine lands program.	Ongoing.
8006	SR: 4.3	Identify locations of abandoned mine lands projects in the planning area and, working with the State of Wyoming, erect warning fencing and signs as funding allows.	Ongoing. LFO has actively identified and inventoried abandoned mine land sites in coordination with the State of Wyoming. LFO has also signed, fenced, or reclaimed/remediated numerous AML sites within the Field Office area since the signing of the RMP.
8007	SR: 3.1 SR: 3.3 SR: 4.2-4.3	Reclaim abandoned mine lands to productive uses including, but not limited to, grazing, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and preservation of historical/cultural resources. Monitor success of abandoned mine lands reclamation projects and maintain reclamation and shaft/adit closures where needed.	See 8006

Lander Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) Evaluation

Final Report – Attachment 4: Summary of Public Comments and BLM Responses

Public Participation

The Lander Field Office notified the public on July 20, 2021, through press release and social media posting of the availability of the Draft Lander RMP Evaluation Report, inviting the public to review the document and submit comments. A 30-day public comment period was allotted for public review. A total of 5 unique comment documents were received during the public comment period. No form letters were received. Comments were received through the BLM's Comment Analysis and Response Application program (CARA), email, and U.S. mail. From the 5 individual comment letters/documents, there were a total of 16 individual comments covering topics from public access, wildlife habitat, wild horse management, grazing privileges, mineral development, and water quality.

Lander RMP Project Website

The BLM maintains a website for the Lander RMP to communicate news and updates to the public throughout the implementation process. The website provides an accessible location for the BLM to post information and for the public to download project-related documents. The website can be accessed at:

<https://go.usa.gov/xFYsM>

Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies provided input during initial preparation of the 2014 Lander RMP and throughout the process related to issues for which they have jurisdictional authority or special expertise. The BLM invited federal, state, and local government agencies, and potentially affected tribes to participate in the document review as cooperating agencies. The cooperating agencies were provided opportunities to review a draft version of the report and provide feedback within their area of expertise or jurisdictional authority. Comments were received and incorporated into the document as appropriate.

Summary of Comments

Public Access

One commentor was concerned with the BLM's ability to close access roads to the public. The recommendation from the commentor was not only keeping current off-road trails/roads open but even consider reopening some that have been closed over the years.

BLM Response

The 2014 Lander RMP evaluated several areas that were carried forward for road closures. While the BLM has implemented the closures of these areas previously identified, no need for new closures were identified during the evaluation. The BLM addresses comprehensive travel and transportation management through a land use planning process that produces regional Resource Management Plans (RMP). Each RMP involves public participation and input to identify existing and proposed access needs. Should future adjustments to access needs be identified, the public will be invited to participate in that process.

Wildlife Habitat

Comments were made on the BLM's authority to map and manage for migration routes/corridors.

BLM Response

As indicated in the report, the BLM agrees that their role is to "to enhance and improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat on Federal lands under the management jurisdiction of this Department in a way that recognizes state authority to conserve and manage big-game species and respects private property rights." (Secretarial Order 3362). Based on the Wyoming Game and Fish publication of the *Sublette Mule Deer Migration Corridor Assessment* (2017); current management in the Lander RMP is adequate to provide protection. The evaluation recommends updating the RMP maps to include this corridor but does not identify a need to modify management to protect this area. The LFO is committed to maintaining a cooperative relationship with local, state and federal partners in the continued protection of these resources.

Wild Horse management

LFO received comment on the ability of the BLM to maintain the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horses within herd management area (HMA) boundaries.

BLM Response

The need to adjust AML in HMAs was not identified in this evaluation. The ability of the BLM to process and complete wild horse gathers when it is determined through annual monitoring that AML is exceeded is outside the scope of the evaluation. The BLM will continue efforts to monitor and remove excess horses as funding and resources allow.

Grazing Privileges

Concern was raised by a commentor that the LFO continue to work towards no net loss of forage availability (as measured by Animal Unit Months, or AUMs) across the field office and work with permittees to manage lands to best meet their needs and encourage healthy rangelands for future generations using all tools available.

BLM Response

The BLM utilizes various methods to monitor the need to modify grazing privileges. AUM adjustments are considered under site specific NEPA analysis upon review on permit renewals. The LFO is committed to continued coordination with permittees and other stakeholders to manage lands to best meet RMP goals and objectives for resource protection and encourage healthy rangelands for future generations.

Wind, Solar, Geothermal and Mineral Development

There were comments that the BLM consider landscape-level planning management for wind, solar, and geothermal energy. There were also comments both in favor and against evaluation recommendations to re-evaluate mineral material closures.

BLM Response

While other BLM-Wyoming field offices have recently received applications for renewable energy projects (particularly in southern Wyoming), the Lander FO has not received any and the potential for future commercial solar and wind projects on public lands in the planning area is low. If this changes, we

will consider the WGFD's suggestion to develop a plan to guide siting of projects relative to wildlife habitats.

Before amending the RMP to consider changes regarding mineral material development, the BLM would first consider all potential environmental effects - beneficial and adverse - and coordinate further with stakeholders and cooperators such as the WGFD. The Report does not propose to initiate an amendment, it only seeks to further evaluate these decisions.

Water Resources

Comments were made on the authority and responsibility the BLM has to protect and manage water resources according to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

BLM Response

The BLM agrees that the agency is required to comply with all state requirements respecting the control and abatement of water pollution under Section 313 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1323) when approving projects that may affect water resources. BLM has authority to protect and manage water resources according to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and does so through the implementation of the RMP. The BLM is also required to provide for compliance with all state requirements respecting the control and abatement of water pollution under Section 313 of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1323) for federal decisions that could affect water quality. The LFO supports the agencies who oversee implementation of the CWA and acknowledges its limited authority in permitting oversight of water resources. The LFO is committed to maintaining a cooperative relationship with local, state, and federal partners in the continued protection of these resources.

Available Baseline Data

Commentors wanted a better outline of the process and datasets used to complete the evaluation of multiple resources. Additionally, commentors provided references for the BLM to consider in future implementation level decisions.

BLM Response

Datasets were reviewed in general to determine the applicability of the management prescriptions defined in the Lander RMP. The review indicates that current management would continue to meet the needs of resource protections at project level implementation. Though the BLM will continue to consider datasets before finalizing implementation-level decisions under the RMP, the BLM does not believe the commentors identified new datasets that are “of significance to the plan” (Final Report at page 1) that rise to the level of significance which would require consideration of a land use plan change, such as through an amendment or maintenance action. The BLM will continue, in coordination with cooperators and stakeholders, consider the best-available data and information at the time implementation decisions are made.