

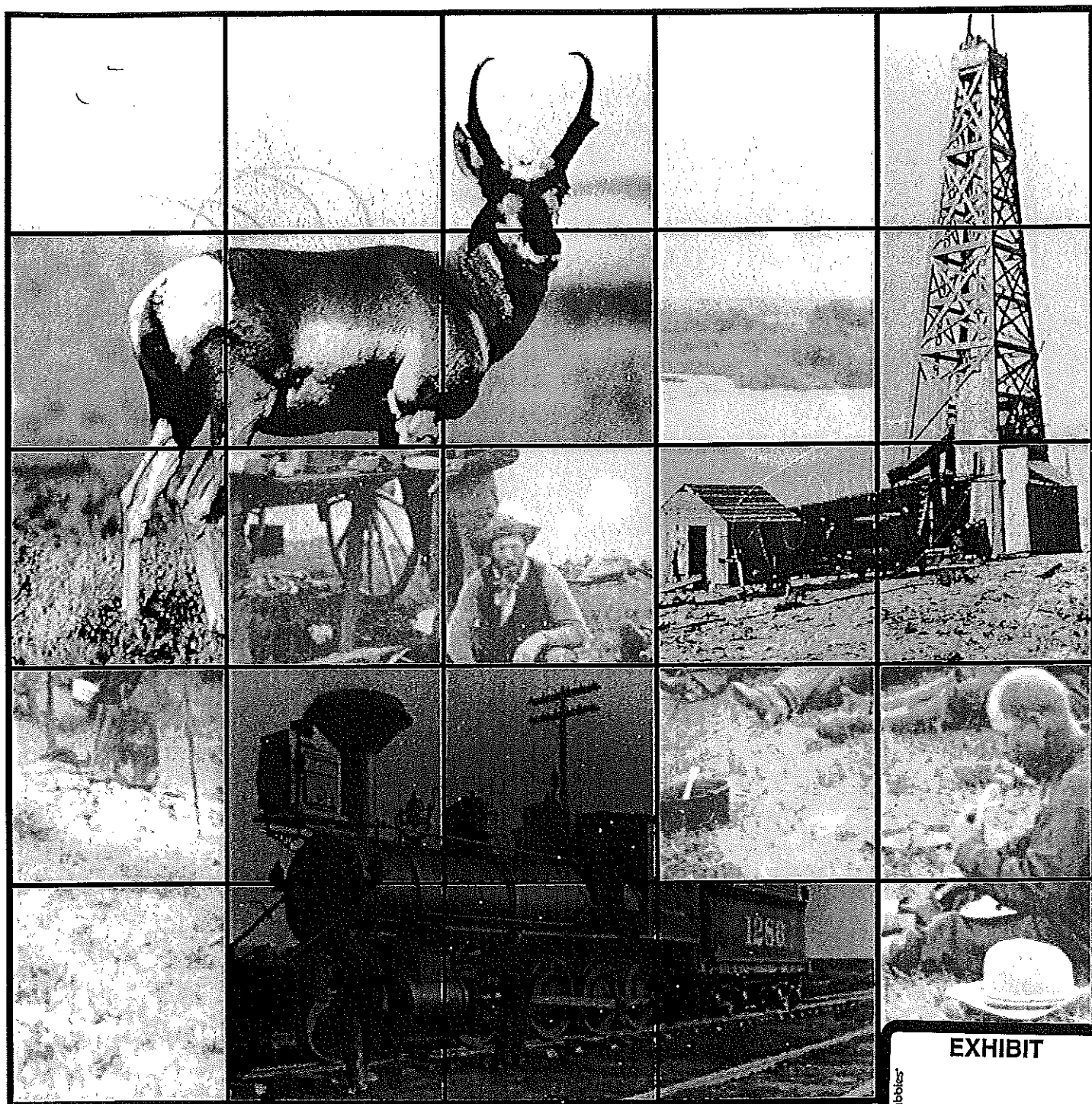
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins District Office

Great Divide Resource Area

November 1990



Great Divide Resource Area Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan



RECORD OF DECISION

This document records the decision made by the Bureau of Land Management for managing approximately 4 million acres of public land surface and 5 million acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Great Divide Resource Area.

DECISION

The decision is to approve the attached resource management plan (RMP) for the Great Divide Resource Area. The approved RMP (hereafter called the Great Divide RMP) was prepared under the regulations for implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 CFR 1600). An environmental impact statement (EIS) was prepared for this plan in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Great Divide RMP supersedes all previous land-use planning decisions for the Great Divide Resource Area.

During the 30-day protest period on the Great Divide proposed RMP/final EIS, one protest was received. Mr. Thomas Lustig, Mr. Paul Zogg, Mr. Thomas Dougherty, and Mr. John Zelazny, submitted a protest on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation. Their protest related to the following:

Adequacy of cumulative impact analysis on wildlife in the RMP/EIS

Adequacy of addressing wildlife and livestock grazing conflicts

Adequacy of addressing antelope and fencing conflicts

Adequacy of addressing impacts to bald eagles

Adequacy of protection for the Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area of Critical Environmental Concern; and

The failure of the RMP to designate multiple big game overlapping critical winter ranges as ACECs.

In resolving the protest, it was not necessary to make any changes in the proposed RMP/final EIS.

The selection and approval of the Great Divide RMP is based on the proposed RMP described in the final EIS.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

The BLM's recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior on the Encampment River Canyon, Prospect Mountain, Bennett Mountains, Adobe Town, and Ferris Mountains wilderness study areas (WSAs) will be made in the appropriate Wilderness EISs. Wilderness decisions are not part of this Record of Decision or the Great Divide RMP. The decisions regarding wilderness are ultimately made by Congress and will be incorporated into the Great Divide RMP. Until Congress makes decisions on the WSAs in the Great Divide Resource Area, they will be managed under the interim wilderness management guidelines.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS

The following areas are designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

Jep Canyon (approximately 13,320 acres)

Como Bluff (approximately 1760 acres)

Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area (approximately 17,280 acres)

Sand Hills (approximately 8,300 acres)

Further information regarding these ACEC and other special management area designations is contained in the Great Divide RMP.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

Four alternative plans were considered in detail in the Great Divide RMP/EIS. All alternatives are multiple-use oriented. Each alternative provides for resource production and environmental protection.

Alternative A is the continuation of current management practices (or the "no action" alternative) on the basis of existing land use plans.

Alternative B restricts activities that are causing problems with other resources. Resource conflicts occurring under existing management are resolved through increased restriction of surface-disturbing activities.

RECORD OF DECISION

Alternative C provides for intensive management of all resources. Surface disturbance impacts would be mitigated or resources would be enhanced while maintaining other resource values.

Alternative D, BLM's preferred alternative and the environmentally preferred alternative, emphasizes a balance between the use of restrictions and the application of intensive management activities.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Great Divide RMP represents the best mix of management actions that provide for sustained multiple use management and environmental protection, while allowing reasonable levels of commodity use.

MITIGATION

The Great Divide RMP has been designed to avoid or minimize environmental harm where practicable. Specific mitigation measures are included in the plan.

MONITORING

Required monitoring standards and intervals are identified and established in the Great Divide RMP.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public participation plan was prepared and followed to insure that the public would have numerous opportunities to be actively involved in the planning and environmental process. Both formal and informal input have been encouraged and used.

A detailed description of the public involvement in the planning process is part of the planning record and is available at the Great Divide Resource Area Office.

CONSISTENCY

The Great Divide RMP is consistent with the plans, programs, and policies of other federal agencies, the state of Wyoming, and local governments within the planning area.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF THIS DOCUMENT

Copies of the Great Divide RMP are available on request at the Great Divide Resource Area Office:

Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management
Box 670
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301
Telephone: (307) 324-4841



Ray Brußaker
Wyoming State Director
Bureau of Land Management

11-8-90
Date

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GREAT DIVIDE RESOURCE AREA

INTRODUCTION

This Resource Management Plan (RMP) provides the management direction for approximately 4 million acres of public land surface and 5 million acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Great Divide Resource Area. This Great Divide RMP supersedes all previous planning decisions for the Great Divide Resource Area.

The resource area administrative boundary includes parts of four counties in south central Wyoming (see map 1). The RMP planning area includes the larger communities of Rawlins, Cheyenne, Laramie, and Saratoga. Smaller communities within the area are Arlington, Baggs, Bairoil, Dixon, Elk Mountain, Encampment, Hanna, McFadden, Medicine Bow, Riverside, Rock River, Savery, Sinclair, and Wamsutter.

There are about 12.5 million acres within the general administrative boundary of the Great Divide Resource Area. Of this, about four million acres of both federal surface and federal mineral estate and another one million acres of only federal mineral estate (i.e., federal minerals under state and privately owned land surface) are administered by BLM and covered by this RMP.

The remaining 7.5 million acres within the resource area boundary are not covered by this RMP. On approximately one million of these 7.5 million acres, the federal mineral estate is administered by BLM, while the surface acreage is administered by other federal agencies, primarily the Forest Service. These acres are not addressed because the plans of those other agencies provide the basis for BLM's administration of those minerals resources. The remaining 6.5 million acres of surface and mineral estate are privately owned or owned by the State of Wyoming.

The Great Divide RMP represents a selection of management actions which resolve the planning issues and provide for sustained multiple use management of the public lands and resources.

All resource uses in the planning area must conform with the decisions, terms, and conditions of use described in this plan. Detailed decisions for the implementation of specific projects will be made through activity planning and environmental review that will be completed prior to the implementation of the project. Likewise, the authorization of specific uses will be based on conformance with planning decisions and completion of environmental review.

Planning and Management Decisions for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

These decisions apply only to the BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of the ACECs.

The general management direction for each designated ACEC is described in this section. The only management actions presented here are for the specific resource management programs that directly pertain to the issues for each ACEC. Management actions for other programs in the ACECs will be guided by the general RMP decisions found in the other sections of the RMP. Management actions for ACECs include appropriate application of "The Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities (Appendix I)" and resource program-specific guidelines.

More specific and detailed management prescriptions and monitoring requirements will be identified when activity plans are prepared for each ACEC.

Como Bluff

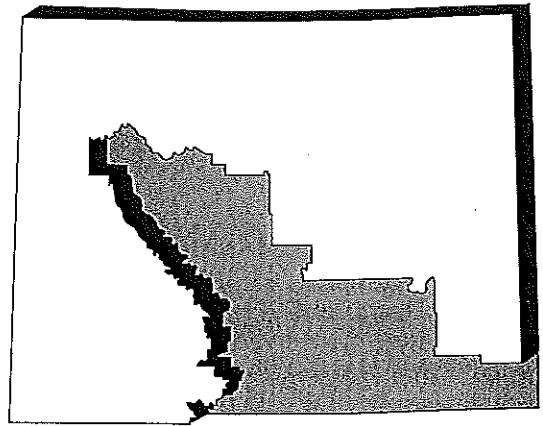
Designation and Management Objectives

The Como Bluff area (1,760 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (see Map 2).

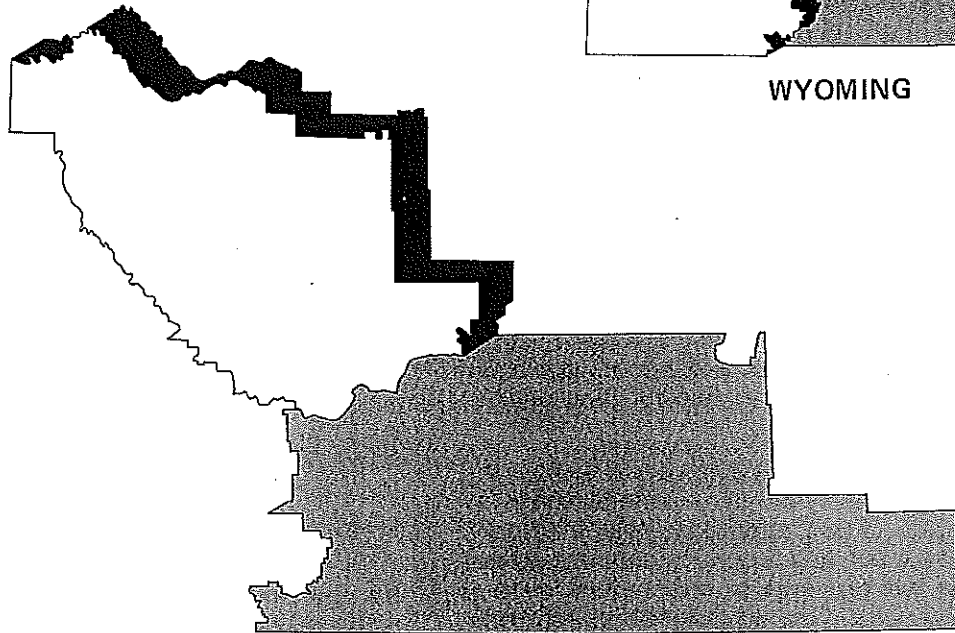
The objectives for management of the Como Bluff ACEC are to manage it in a manner that will maintain the integrity of the Como Bluff National Register District/National Natural Landmark, to preserve historically significant sites, and to allow for mineral development. The National Natural Landmark (NNL) will be managed for its paleontological resource and historical values.

Management Actions

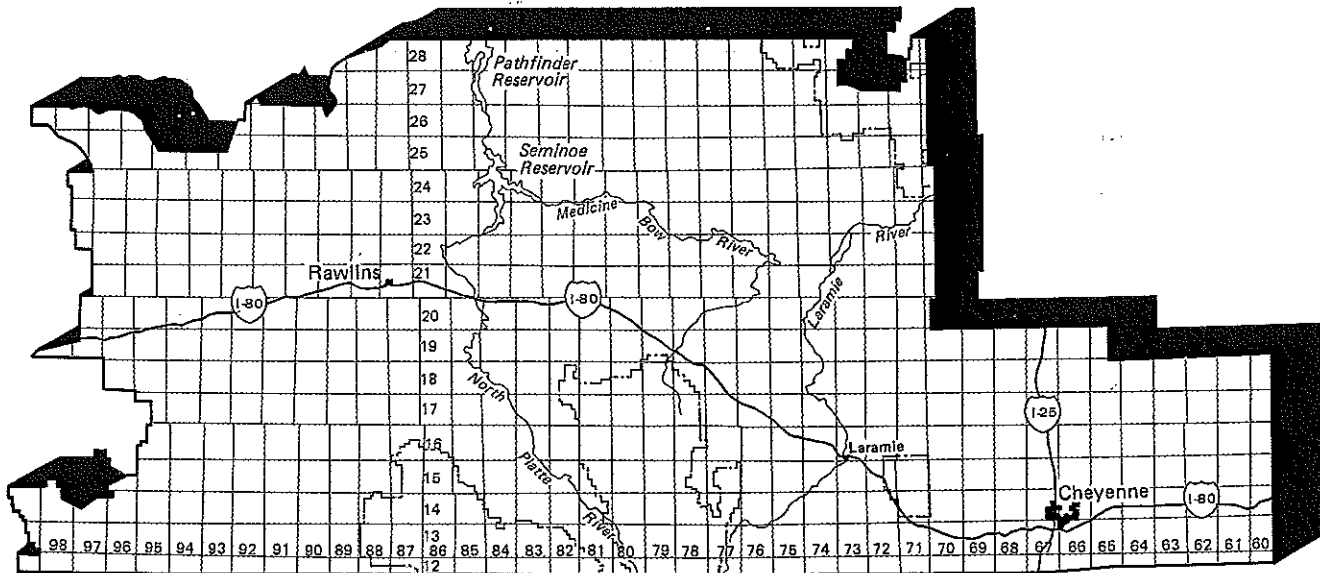
An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Como Bluff ACEC.



WYOMING

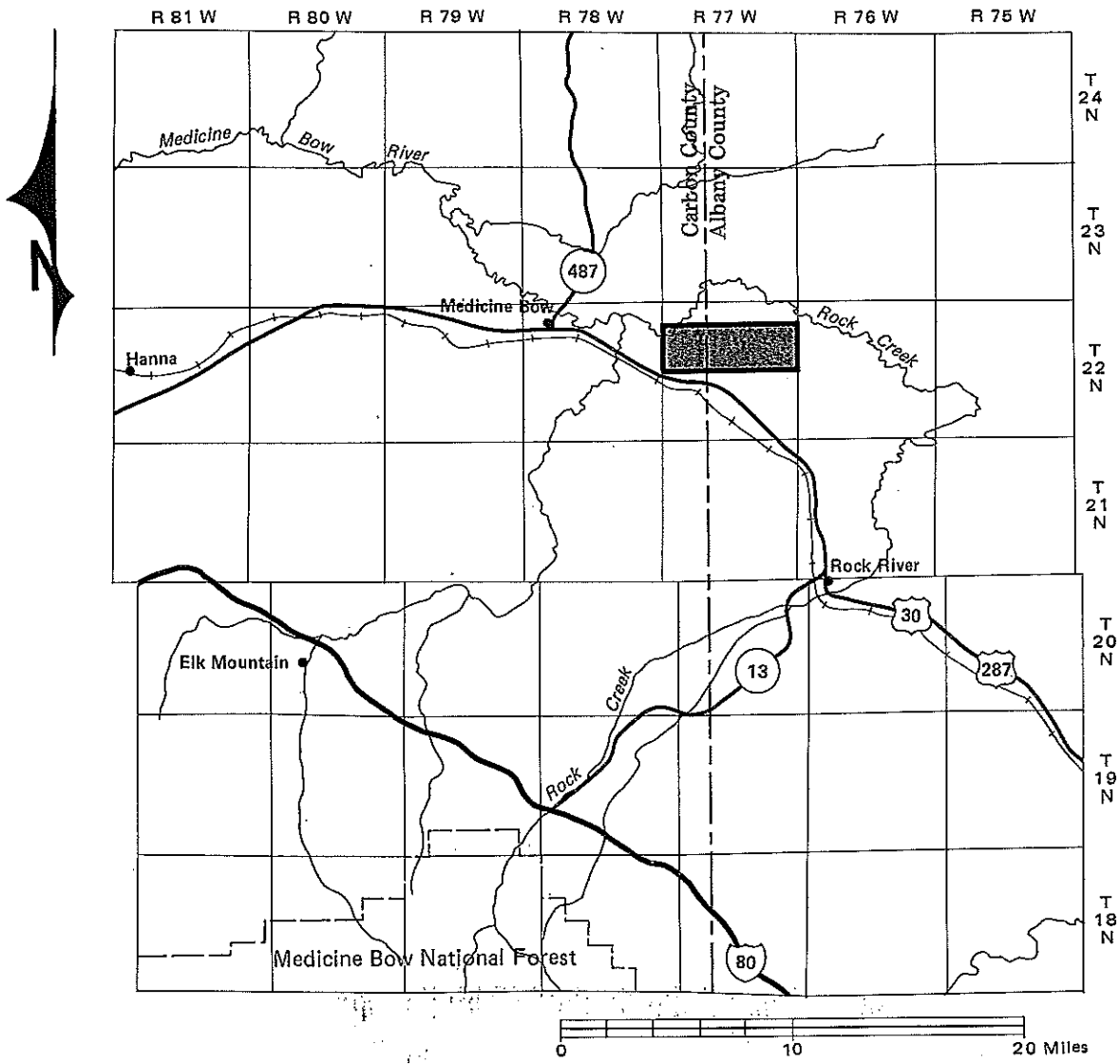


RAWLINS DISTRICT



GREAT DIVIDE RESOURCE AREA

Map 1
 GENERAL LOCATION MAP
 Great Divide (formerly Medicine Bow-
 Divide) Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



 ACEC Area

Map 2
COMO BLUFF ACEC
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cultural and Paleontological Resource Management

Within ¼ mile of exposures of the Morrison Formation (a fossil-bearing formation) surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed. Case-by-case examination of any proposed surface disturbing activity will be made to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects.

Minerals Management

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.

Plans of operations will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that may be disturbed.

Sand Hills

Designation and Management Objectives

The Sand Hills area (about 8,300 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (See Map 3).

The objectives for management of the Sand Hills ACEC are to protect the unique vegetation complex, maintain wildlife habitat values, minimize soil erosion, and promote recreational opportunities.

Management Actions

An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Sand Hills ACEC.

Fire Management

The ACEC is designated a full fire suppression area with management options (i.e., restrictions may be placed on the use of standard full suppression firefighting techniques).

Minerals Management

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.

Plans of operations will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that may be disturbed.

Off Road Vehicle Management

Motor vehicle use will be limited to existing roads and trails. Rehabilitation and mitigation practices will be carried out in specific problem areas.

Vegetation/Soils Management

The unique vegetation complex of the Sand Hills area will be protected from sources of disturbance through intensive management of surface-disturbing activities. Case-by-case examination of any proposed surface disturbing activity will be made to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects.

Developments, uses, and facilities will be managed temporally (time of year) and spatially (space or distance) to avoid damage to the vegetation.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Inventories will be conducted to identify the location of existing roads and trails, areas that mule deer avoid because of human activities, and areas where soil disturbance and wind erosion are concentrated.

Action plans will be developed to mitigate the effects in identified mule deer behavioral avoidance zones and to rehabilitate concentrated soil disturbance and wind erosion.

Jep Canyon

Designation and Management Objective

The Jep Canyon area (about 13,320 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (See Map 4).

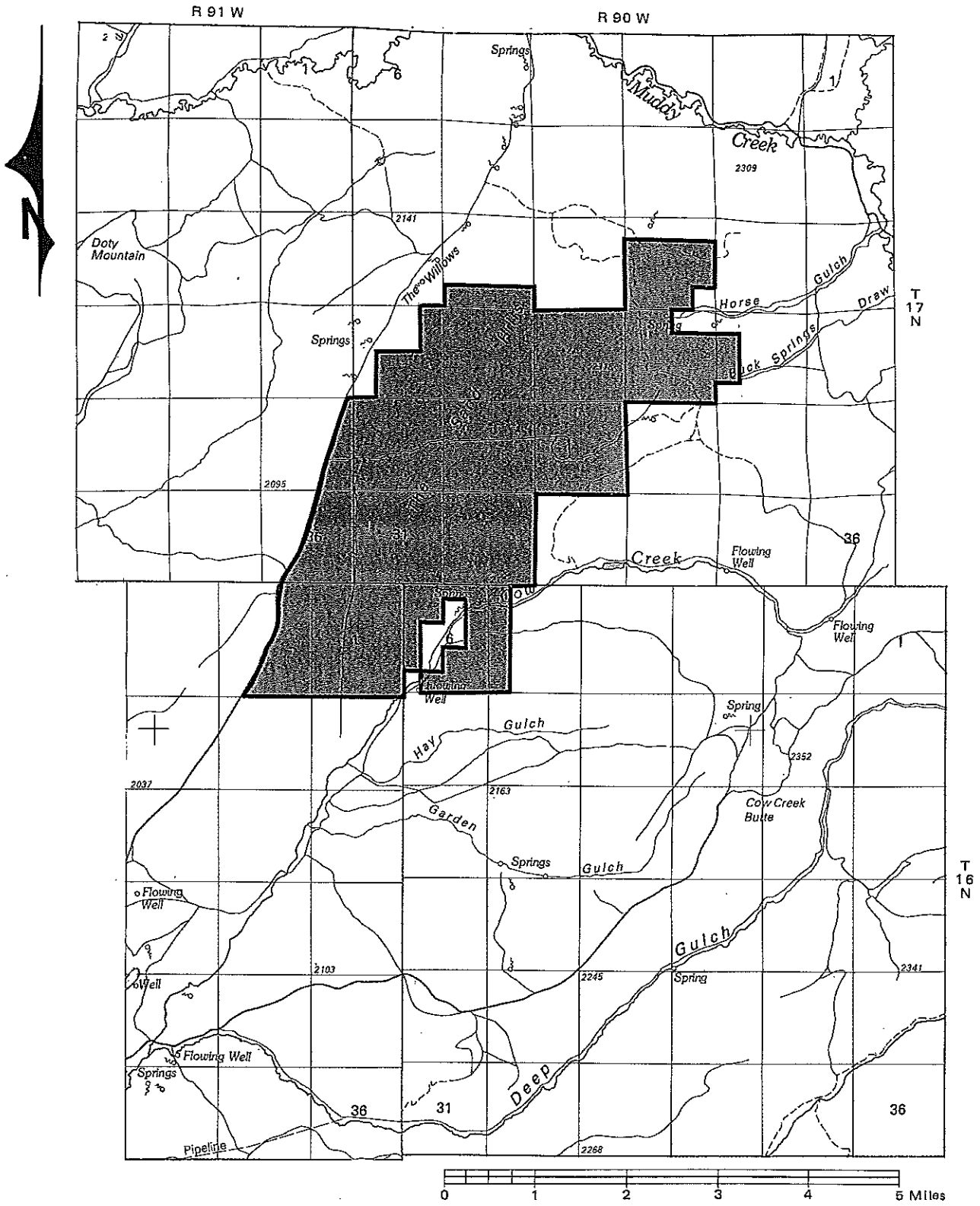
The objectives for management of the Jep Canyon ACEC are to maintain the integrity of crucial winter habitat for elk, to maintain the productivity of nesting raptor pairs, to allow for development of oil and gas and coal, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat.

Management Actions

An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Jep Canyon ACEC.

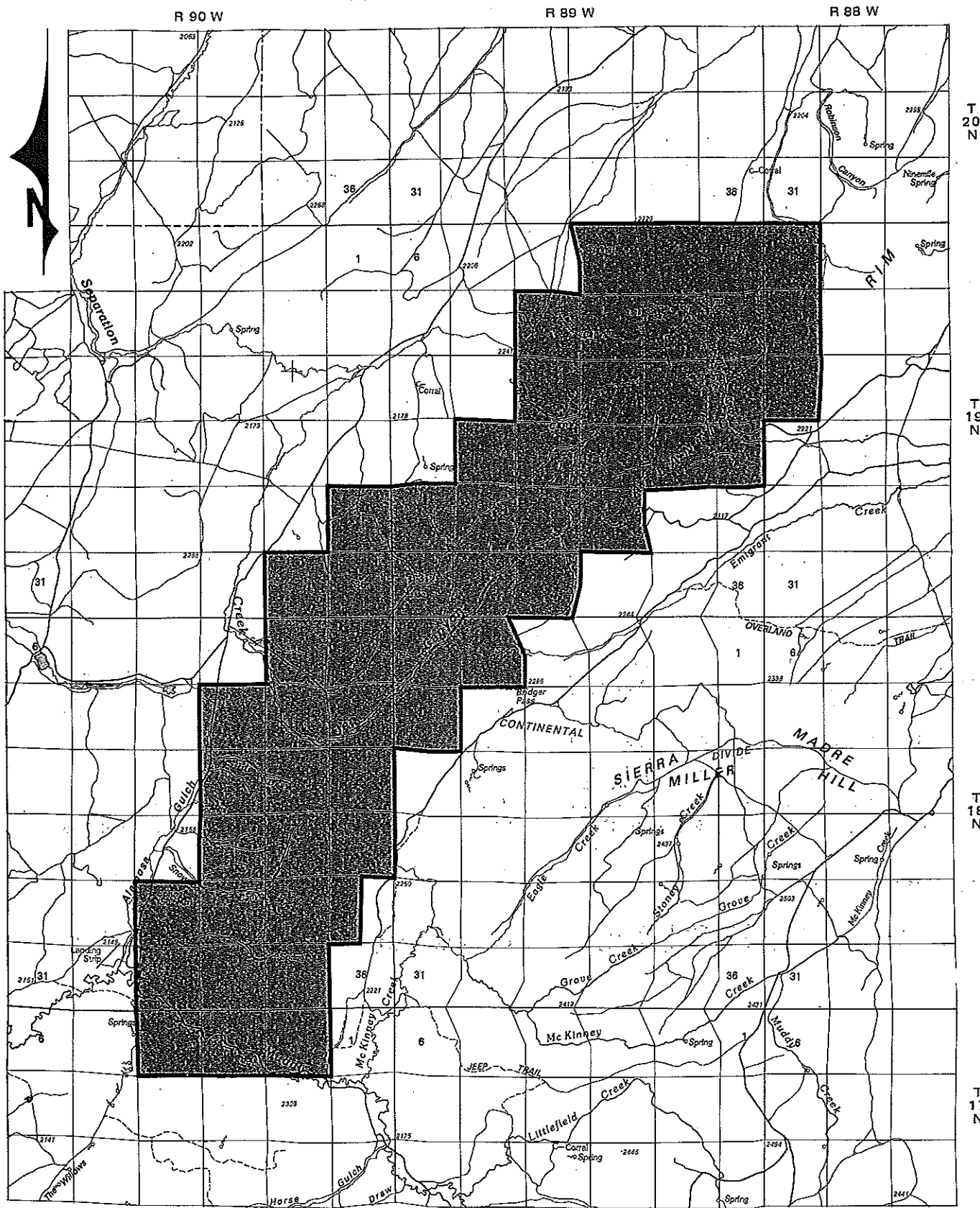
Minerals Management

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.



 ACEC Area

Map 3
SAND HILLS ACEC
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



 ACEC Area

Map 4
 JEP CANYON ACEC
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Plans of operations will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres that would be disturbed.

Coal development will be permitted in the Jep Canyon ACEC with application of mitigation and protection requirements developed during the coal screening process (see Appendix II, Atlantic Rim).

Vegetation/Soils Management

Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed to prevent loss of significant habitat. This will entail case-by-case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Certain times of the year and certain areas will be avoided by spatial and temporal management of development, facilities, and uses.

Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area

Designation and Management Objectives

The Shamrock Hills Raptor Concentration Area (RCA) (about 17,280 acres of public land) is designated an ACEC (see Map 5).

The objectives for management of this area are to maintain the productivity of nesting raptor pairs, to allow for development of coal and oil and gas, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of raptor nesting habitat.

Management Actions

An activity plan will be prepared to provide detailed guidance for management of the Shamrock Hills ACEC.

Vegetation/Soils Management

Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed to maintain raptor nesting habitat. This will entail case-by-case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Developments, uses, and facilities will be managed temporally and spatially to avoid certain times of the year and certain areas.

Minerals Management

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with intensive management of surface disturbing activities.

Plans of operations will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use), regardless of the number of acres in the ACEC that would be disturbed.

Coal development will be permitted in the Shamrock Hills ACEC with application of mitigation and protection requirements developed during the coal screening process (see Appendix II, Indian Springs and North Indian Springs).

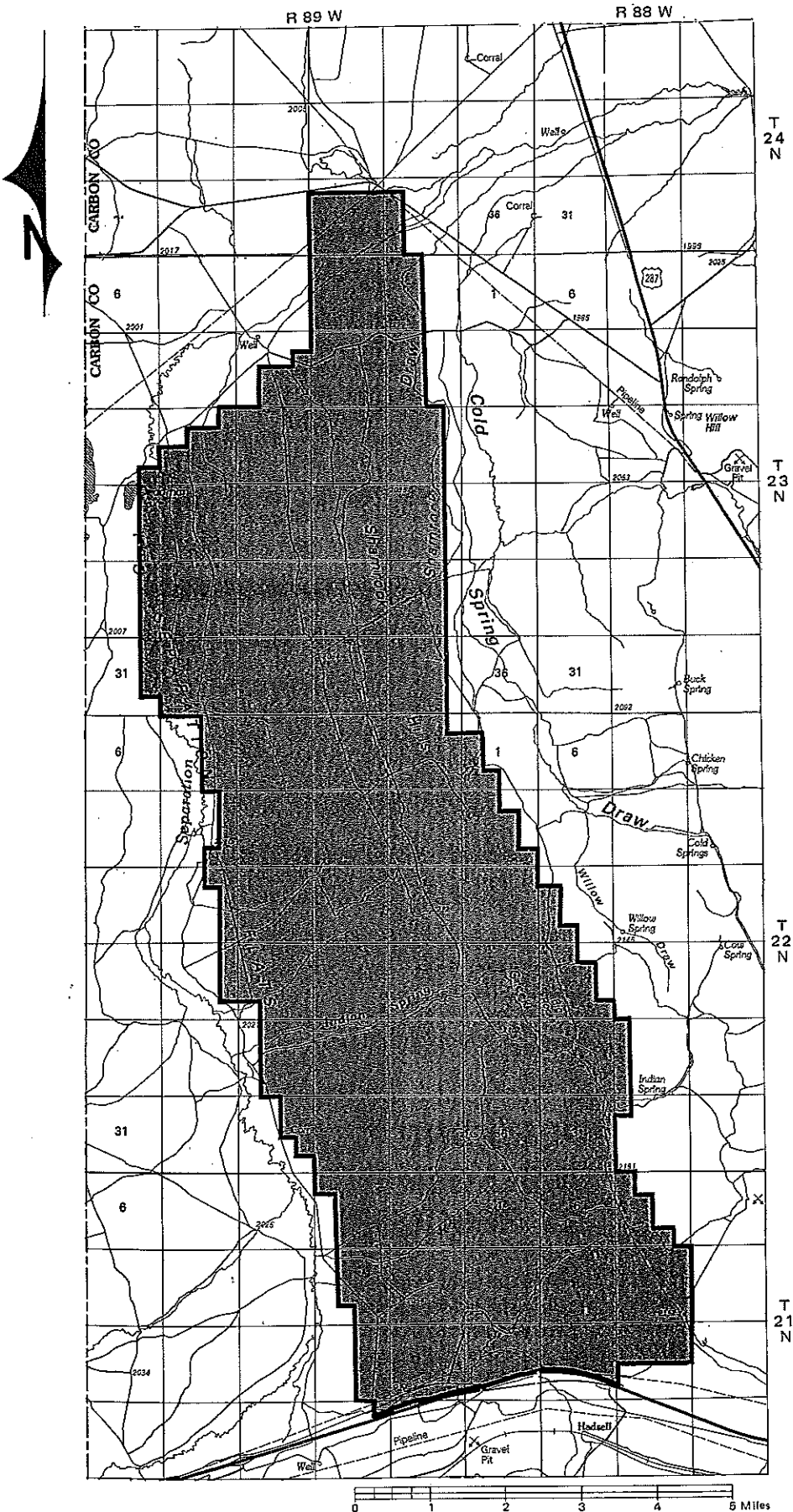
Seminole Raptor Concentration Area

The Seminole Raptor Concentration Area (RCA) was originally proposed for ACEC designation because of its historically high concentrations of nesting ferruginous hawks. Review of nesting activity in the Seminole RCA from 1987 to 1990 determined that only one or two pairs of ferruginous hawks utilized the area for nesting habitat. The decline in ferruginous hawk use is believed to have occurred since the late 1970s following the decline of both prairie dogs and Richardson's ground squirrels inhabiting the area. Ferruginous hawk nests originally located in the 1970s and early 1980s are generally in poor condition. Many of the nests are merely stick remnants now.

For these reasons the Seminole RCA will not be designated an ACEC. However, the area will continue to be monitored. In the event that populations of hawks and prey rebound in the future, management direction in the area will be reconsidered.

PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS BY RESOURCE PROGRAM

The general management actions for each of the following resource programs include application of "The Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities (Appendix I)" and resource program-specific guidelines.



 ACEC Area

Map 5
SHAMROCK HILLS ACEC
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cultural Resources Management Decisions

General

Management Objectives

To protect and preserve representative samples of the full array of cultural resources for the benefit of scientific and socio-cultural use by present and future generations.

To ensure that cultural resources are given full consideration in all land-use planning and management decisions.

To manage cultural resources so that scientific and socio-cultural values are not diminished, but rather are maintained and enhanced.

To ensure that the BLM's undertakings avoid inadvertent damage to cultural resources both federal and nonfederal.

Management Actions

The BLM will conduct Class I, II, or III inventories for actions involving BLM administered public land and/or federal minerals that include surface disturbance as part of the action. The BLM will also evaluate the significance of cultural resources identified during inventory in consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office to determine whether the resources are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The BLM will categorize cultural resources for management purposes (eg. public use, scientific, socio-cultural).

The above actions will be carried out in accordance with law, policy, and guidance to meet the objectives for cultural resources management. Other actions pertaining to cultural resources are described under ACECs, Fire Management Decisions, and in Appendices I and II.

Trails

Management Objectives

To stabilize and protect significant sites and segments along the Overland Trail, the Cherokee Trail, and the Rawlins-Fort Washakie Trail.

Management Actions

The BLM will seek listing on the National Register of Historic Places for eligible sites along the trails.

The BLM will take appropriate actions (such as protective fencing of trail segments or stabilization of deteriorating buildings) to meet the objectives for significant trail segments.

Where appropriate, the BLM will pursue opportunities to acquire legal access to trail segments.

National Natural Landmarks

Management Objective

To maintain the integrity of existing and proposed NNLs

Management Actions

Lands totaling 160 acres in the Gangplank proposed NNL, 640 acres in the Big Hollow NNL, and 160 acres in the Sand Creek NNL will be considered for disposal to individuals, organizations, agencies, or institutions that would manage these areas in accordance with their NNL status (see Map 6).

Management actions pertaining to the Como Bluff NNL are described in the Como Bluff ACEC section.

Paleontological Resources Management Decisions

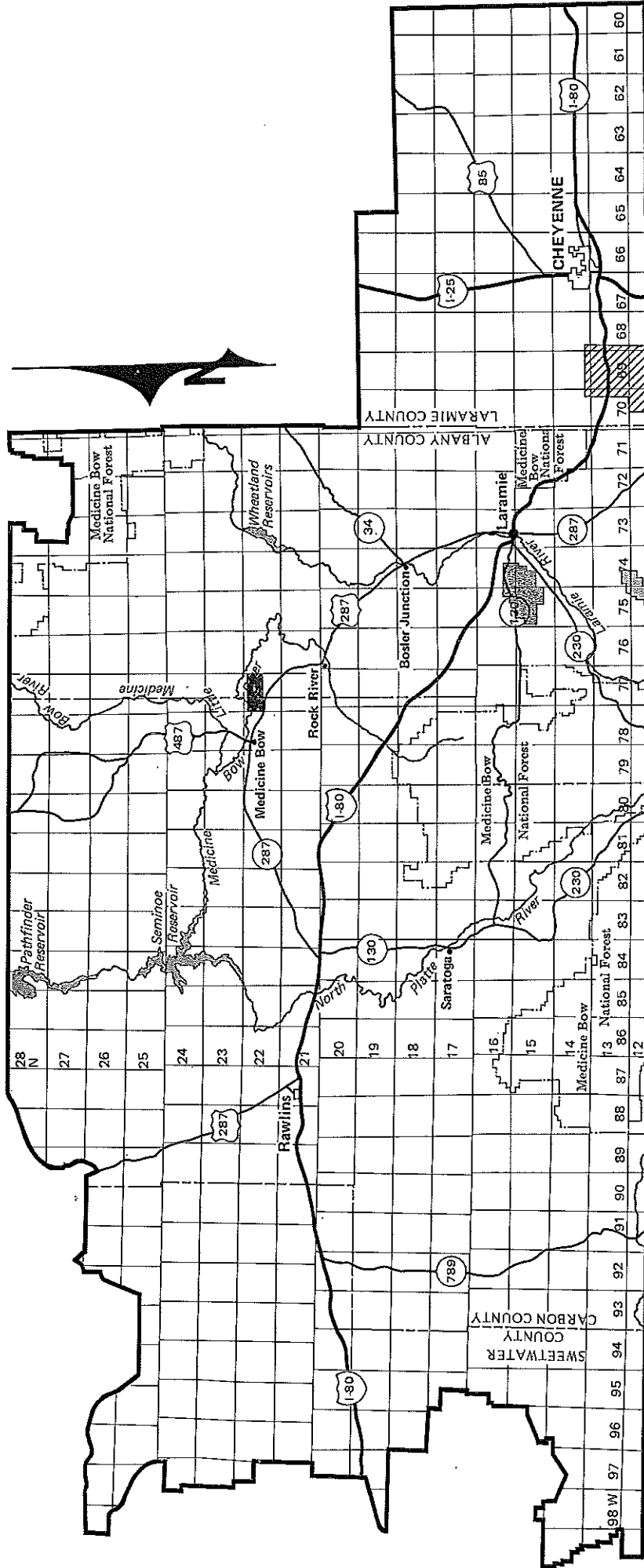
Management Objectives

To maintain the integrity of the scientific value of paleontological resources.

Management Actions

Inventories will be conducted on a case-by-case basis for each proposed surface-disturbing activity to ensure maintenance or integrity of paleontological values.

Other actions pertaining to paleontological resources are described in Appendix II and the Como Bluff ACEC section.



Como Bluffs
Big Hollow
Sand Creek
Gangplank (Currently in Nomination Process)

Note: Boundaries are illustrated precisely on individual land ownership status maps.

Map 6
GENERAL LOCATIONS OF
NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS
Great Divide Resource Management Plan
November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Fire Management Decisions

Management Objectives

To concentrate fire suppression efforts in areas containing high resource and/or human values and in areas with intermingled landownership patterns, and to use prescribed fire to help meet the objectives of other programs (such as the reduction of fuels or the maintenance and/or improvement of wildlife habitat or range condition).

Management Actions

Portions of the planning area are designated for different levels of fire suppression (see map 7).

Full Suppression: Approximately 60% of the planning area is designated a full suppression area. There are no equipment restrictions.

Full Suppression With Management Options: Approximately 3% of the planning area is designated a full fire suppression area "with management options." Restrictions may be placed on the use of standard full suppression firefighting techniques.

Limited Suppression: Approximately 36% of the planning area is designated a limited fire suppression area.

Limited Suppression With Consultation: Approximately 1% of the planning area is proposed for a limited suppression classification following consultation and agreement with the landowners in the area. If agreement cannot be reached to allow limited suppression of wildfires, the area will be managed under a full suppression classification.

A fire management plan will be prepared containing criteria for protecting high resource values such as significant cultural resources, crucial winter range for big game, high priority watersheds, and high-value scenic areas. The fire management plan will include operational aspects of implementing limited suppression designations. An escaped fire analysis will be conducted to determine the appropriate course of action if fires cannot be contained within the first burning period or if they exceed the criteria established for limited suppression.

Prescribed burning will be used to achieve management objectives such as those for allotment management plans (AMPs) and habitat management plans (HMPs). Prescribed fire proposals will be con-

sidered case-by-case to ensure environmental integrity and consistency with multiple resource objectives and activity plans.

Forest Management Decisions

Management Objective

To enhance health and productivity as well as diversity of the forestlands through forest management practices.

Management Actions

The allowable harvest level is 20 million board feet (MMBF) per decade. This will be harvested from the commercial forestlands in the planning area that are available for intensive or restricted management of forest products (about 25,900 acres or 23% of the total forestland in the planning area). Following are the types of actions that will be taken to meet the forest management objectives on these lands.

About 19,200 acres will be intensively managed for forest products. These lands will be managed to achieve a highly productive forest by implementing activities that will enhance tree growth and health. Full consideration will be given to multiple-use values. Timber sales will be concentrated in these areas.

About 6,700 acres will be under restricted management for forest products. Included in this category are areas such as steep slopes and riparian areas with buffer zones around them.

Forest management practices such as timber harvesting, regeneration of disturbed sites, stand replacement and precommercial thinning will be carried out to meet the forest management objectives.

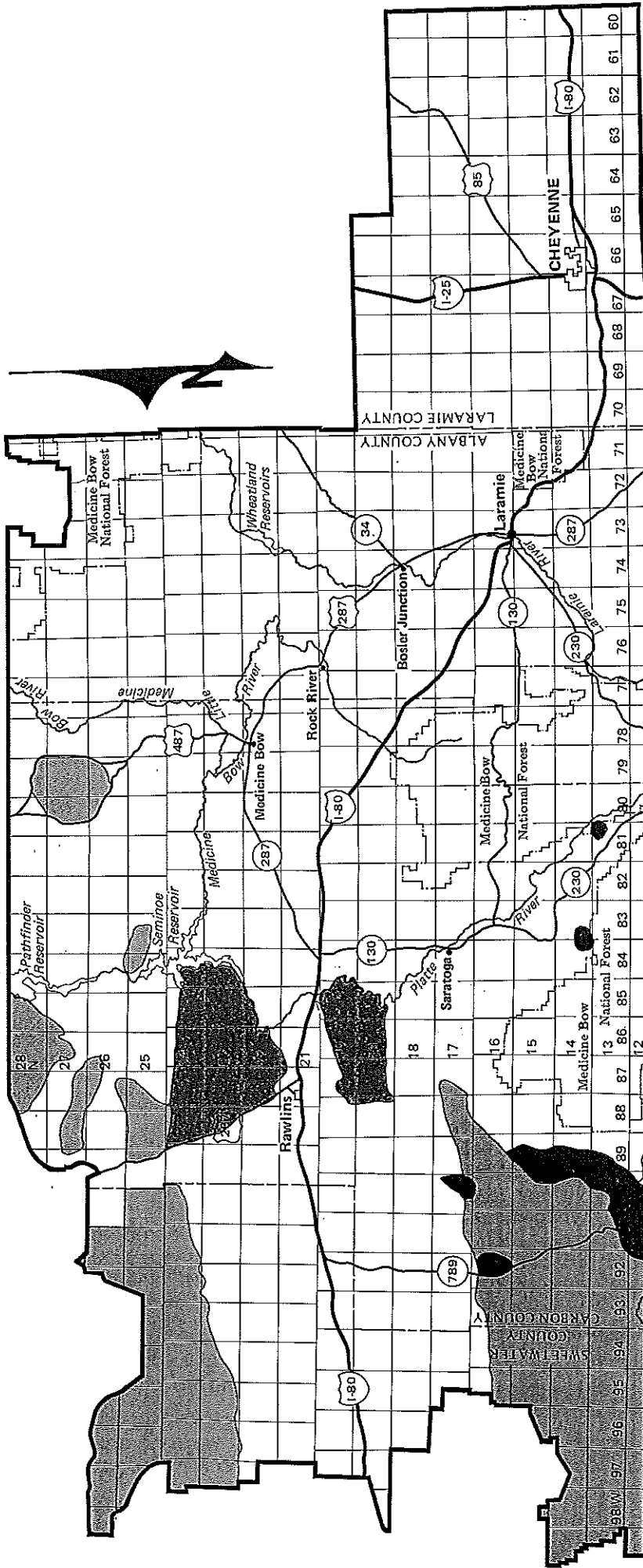
Stands of unmerchantable, nonproductive lodgepole pine will be replaced with young, vigorous trees.

Minor wood products such as fuelwood, posts and poles, Christmas trees, and wildings will be available on demand.

The BLM will pursue opportunities to acquire or maintain legal access to certain areas of public land to support intensive management of commercial forestland (see the Lands Program - Access section for areas of access needs).

Consolidation of landownership on Elk Mountain and Shirley Mountain will be considered as opportunities arise.

About 85,200 acres of other forestlands will be managed only to enhance other uses. Aspen, juni-



- Full Suppression
- Limited Suppression
- Limited Suppression (Need Landowner Consent)
- Full Suppression with Management Options

Map 7
FIRE MANAGEMENT
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

per, and other noncommercial tree species are included in this category.

About 300 acres are not available for management of forest products because the timber is not harvestable and because of the small size of the stands, their scattered locations, or terrain limitations.

Lands Program Management Decisions

Management Objectives

To support the goals and objectives of other resource programs for managing the BLM administered public lands and to respond to public demand for land use authorizations.

Management Actions

Utility/Transportation Systems

All BLM administered public lands will be open to consideration for placement of utility/transportation systems, but such systems will be located next to existing facilities whenever possible.

Areas with important resource values identified on Map 8 will be avoided where possible in planning for new facility placement and routes. If it becomes necessary for facilities to be placed within avoidance areas, effects will be intensively mitigated.

Communication Sites

Communication site plans will be developed for all existing and any new sites (see Map 9). New sites may be established, with appropriate analysis, on a case-by-case basis.

Site categories will be established for all communication sites according to the following criteria:

High-power communication sites will be reserved for broadcast television and radio transmitters of 100 watts or more.

Low-power communication sites will be reserved for microwave, mobile telephone/radio, and other transmitters using fewer than 100 watts.

A 2-mile buffer will be maintained around all communication sites to ensure their integrity.

Landownership Adjustments

About 66,000 acres are identified as available for consideration for disposal under the disposal cri-

teria of FLPMA. These lands may be disposed by any appropriate means permitted under the land laws, including desert land patent, exchange, sale, and recreation and public purpose (R&PP) patent. Specific tracts are identified on Maps 10, 11, 12, and 13.

In addition, proposals for disposal of lands not identified as meeting the FLPMA criteria will be considered if they are consistent with the objectives of the RMP.

Before taking any disposal action, consideration will be given to each individual tract and will include public involvement.

The preferred method of disposal or acquisition of lands by BLM will be through exchange.

Access

Consistent with the Wyoming BLM access policy, the BLM will pursue opportunities to acquire or maintain legal access to the following areas:

High Importance

Arlington (forestry)
Atlantic Rim (recreation)
Big Creek (recreation)
Elk Mountain (forestry)
Ferris Mountains (recreation)
Little Medicine (forestry)
Miller Hill (recreation)
Shirley Mountain (forestry, recreation)

Moderate Importance

North Laramie River (forestry)
Pine Mountain-Split Rock (forestry)
Rawlins Uplift (recreation)
Seminoe-Pathfinder (recreation)
Toltec (forestry)
White Rock Canyon (forestry)

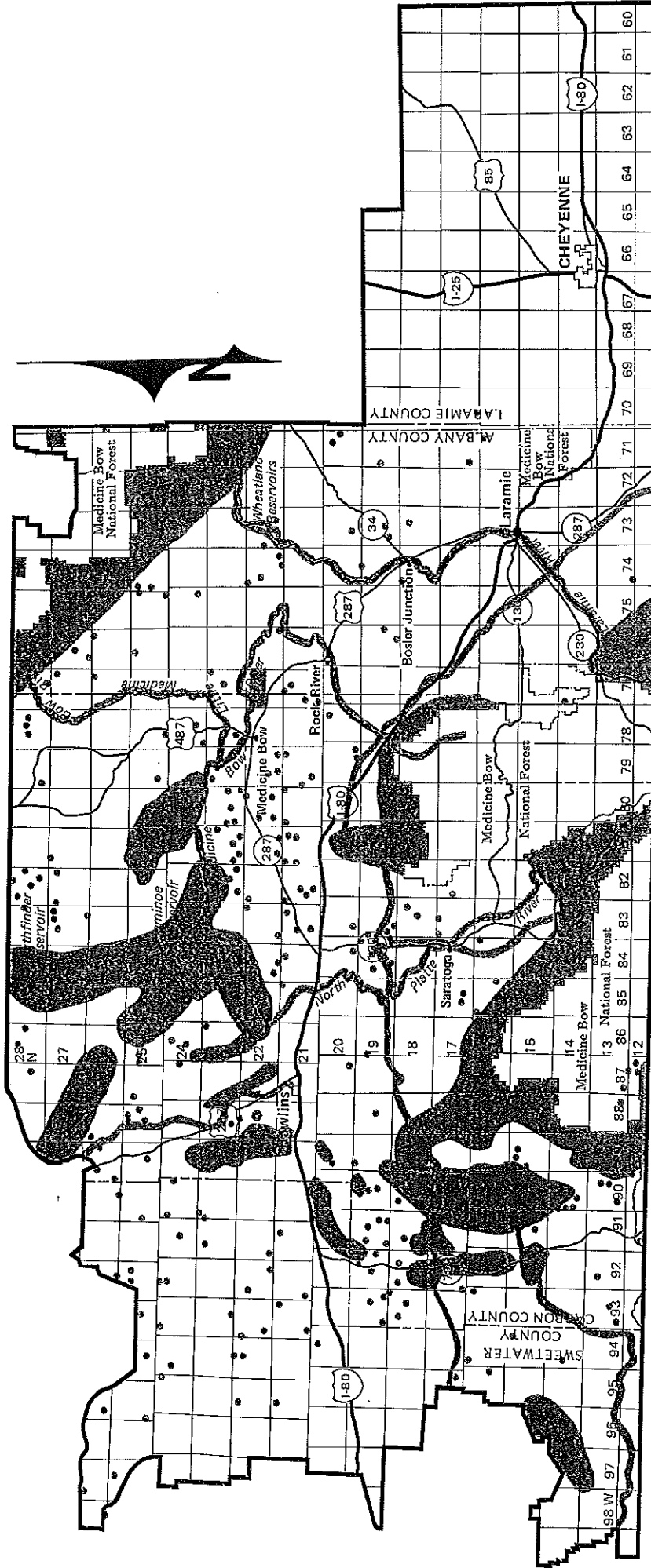
Low Importance

Seven Mile (forestry)
Sugarloaf (forestry)
Woodedge (forestry)
Continental Divide Trail (recreation)

See Map 14 for areas of access need. Additional access needs will be considered as they are identified or as opportunities arise.

Withdrawals

Reviews of withdrawn lands in the planning area, under section 204(l) of FLPMA, will be completed to



The following areas would be avoided, if possible, when permits are granted for surface-disturbing activities. If avoidance is not possible, each situation would be individually analyzed considering facility features, use, time of year, construction techniques, and human presence. Impacts would be carefully mitigated by intensive reclamation, special construction techniques, etc.

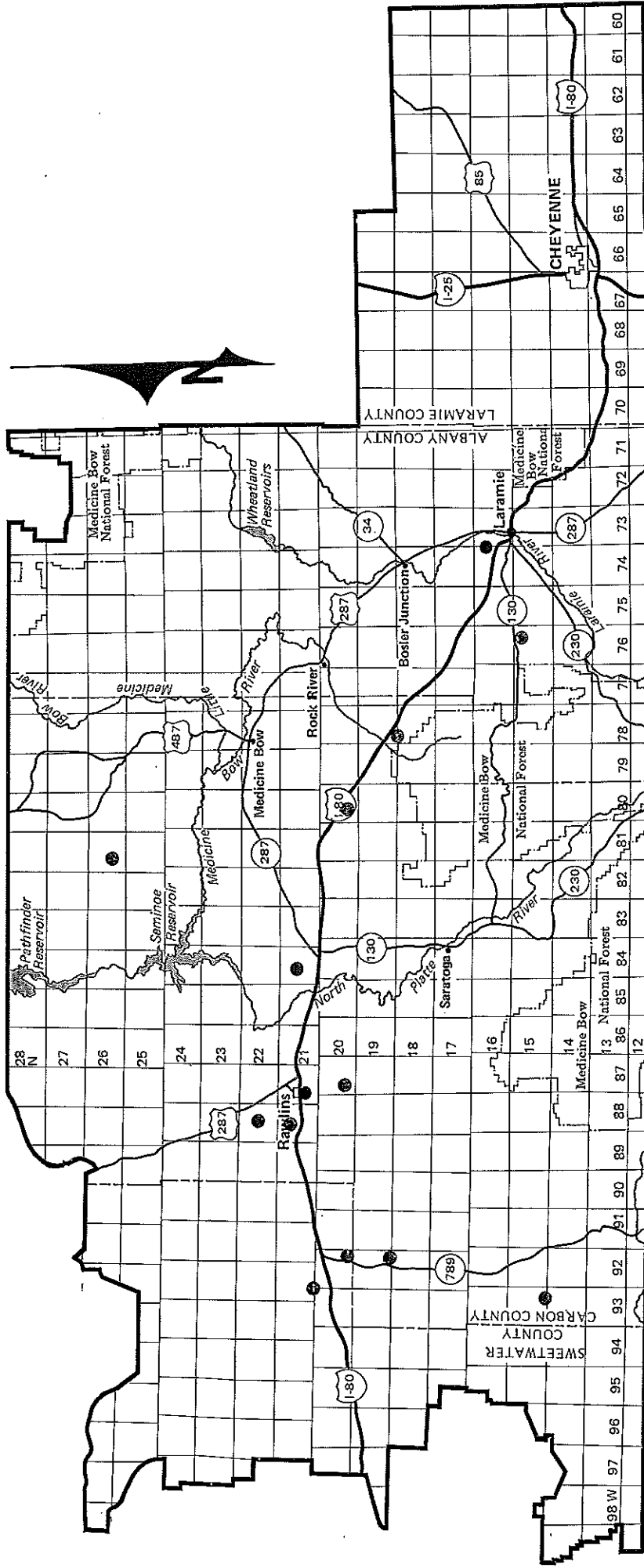
- Steep slopes (not shown on map - covers 8% of planning area)
- Riparian Areas / Surface Water (only main water bodies shown on map - covers 3½% of planning area)
- High Priority Habitat (not shown on map - covers 6% of planning area - may overlap other areas)

••••• Sage Grouse Strutting Grounds (Locations on map are approximate. There may be more locations than are shown on the map)

■ VRM Class I and II Areas, Beggs Elk Crucial Winter Range, Como Bluff Natural History Site, Sand Hills area, Historic Trails, Raptor Concentration areas, and Recreation Areas.

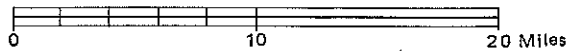
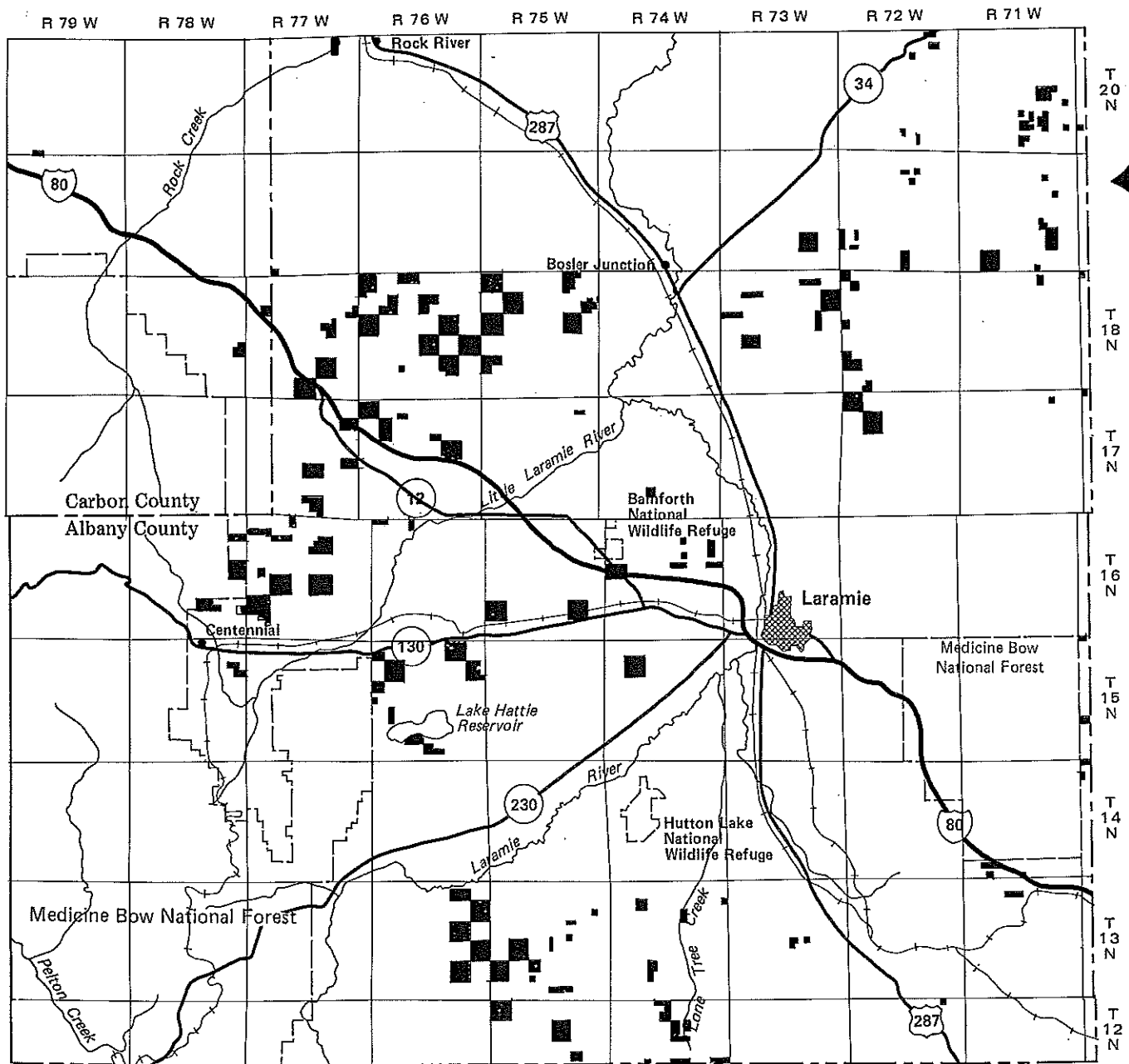



Map 8
**UTILITY/TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
 AVOIDANCE AREAS**
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



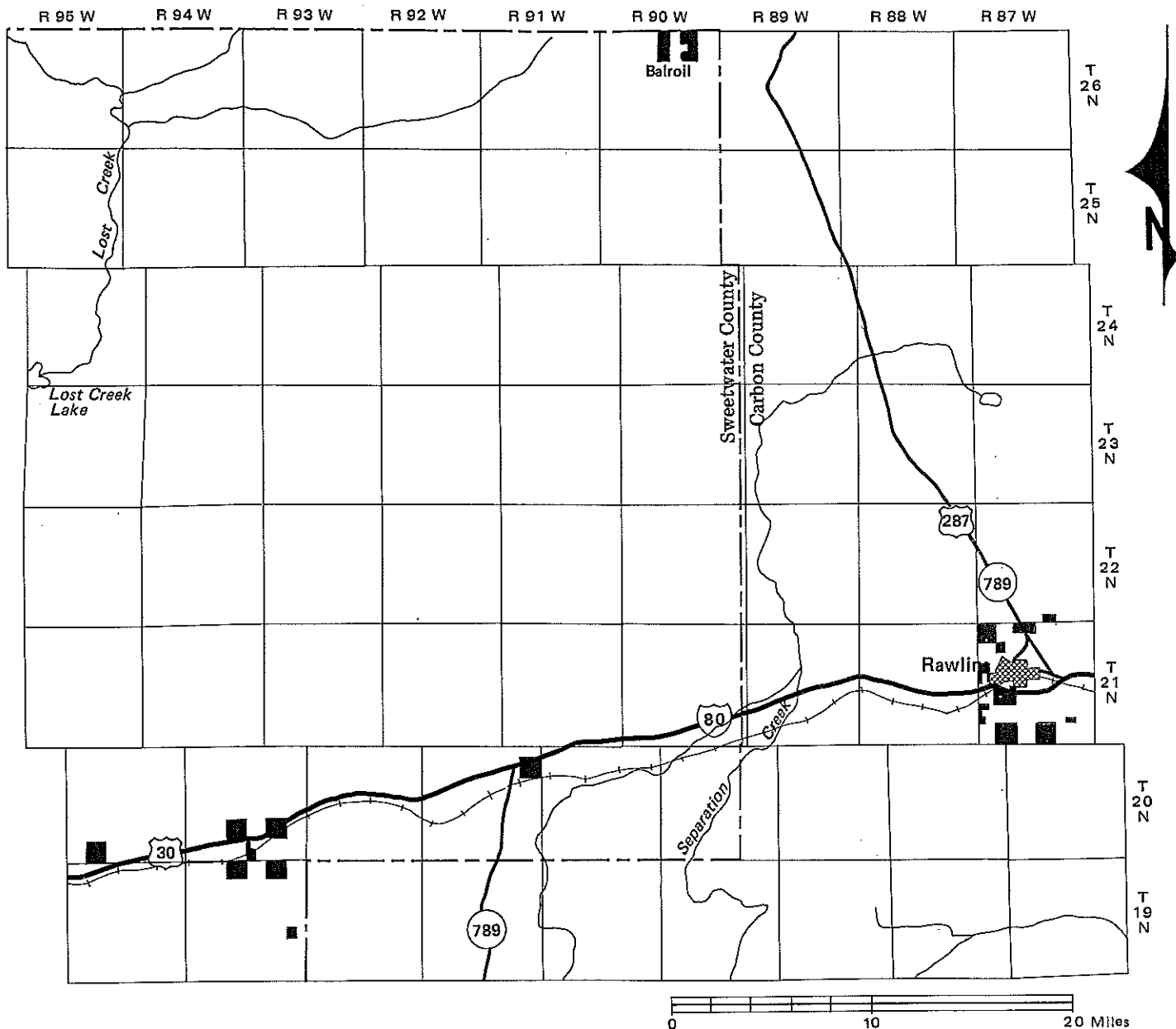
- High Power Communication Site
- Low Power Communication Site

Map 9
COMMUNICATIONS SITE CATEGORIES
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



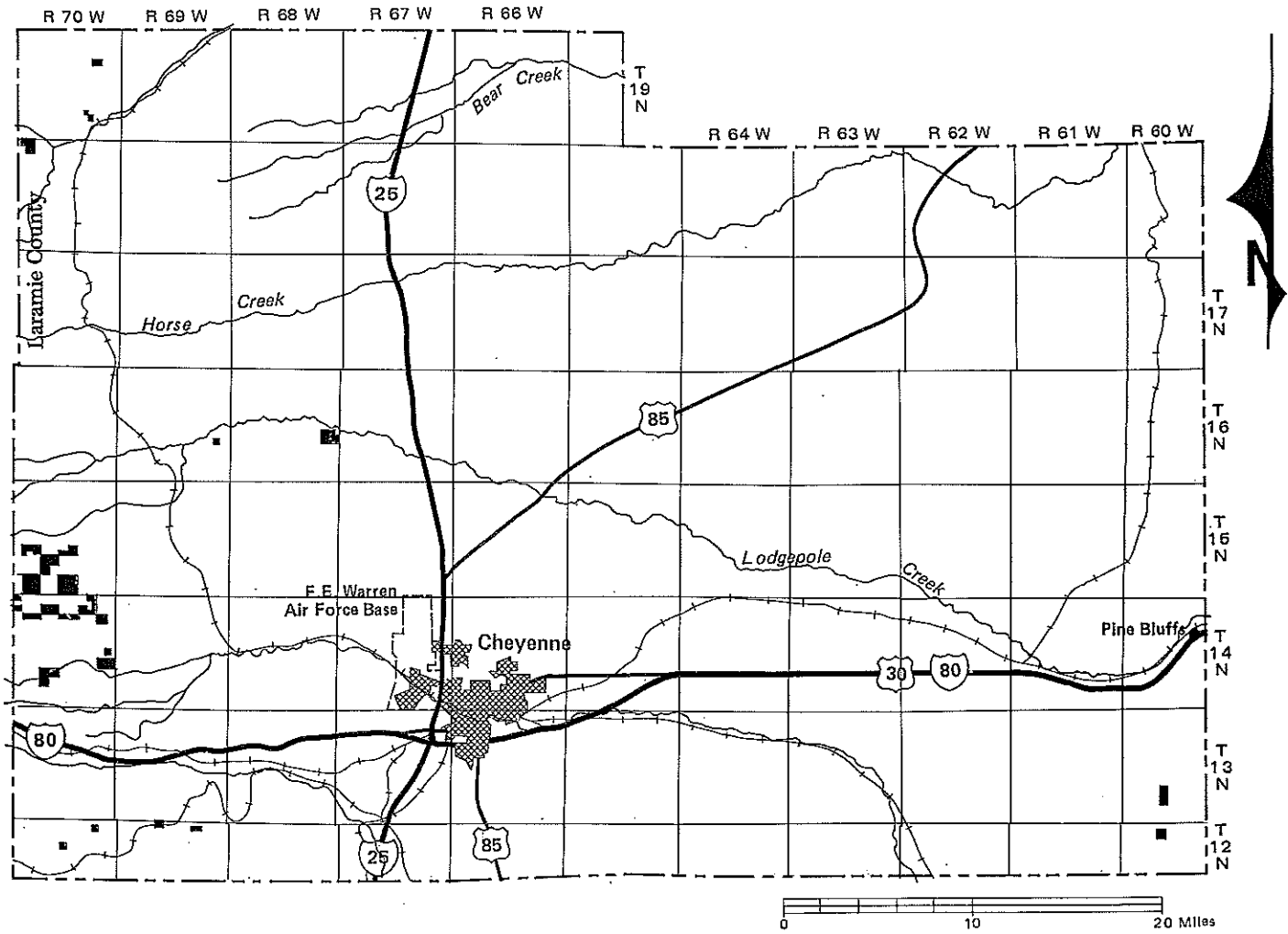

 Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they are isolated and difficult to manage.

Map 10
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
ALBANY AND EASTERN CARBON COUNTIES
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



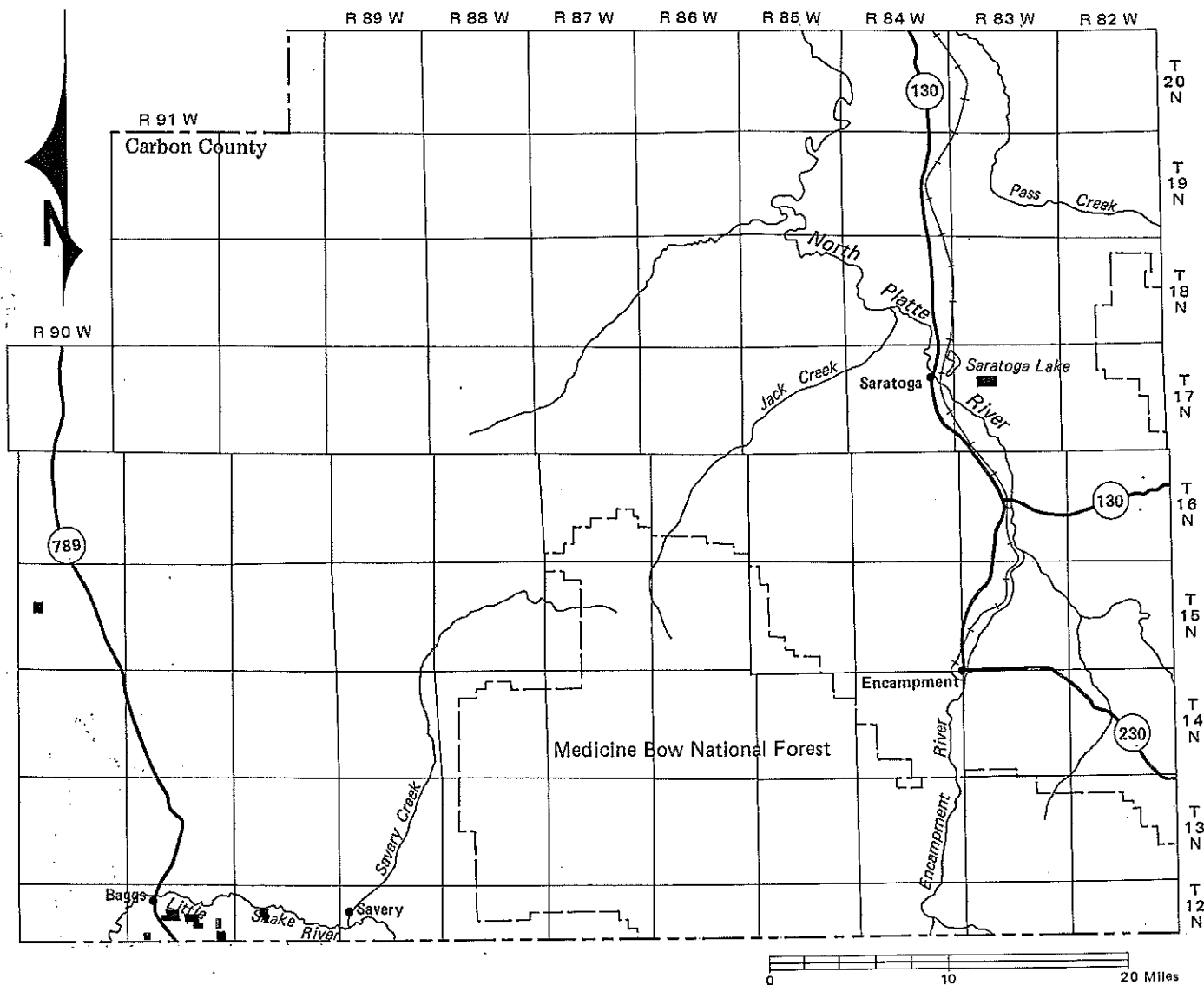
Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they would meet important objectives such as community expansion or economic development.


Map 11
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
NORTHERN CARBON AND SWEETWATER COUNTIES
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



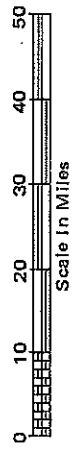
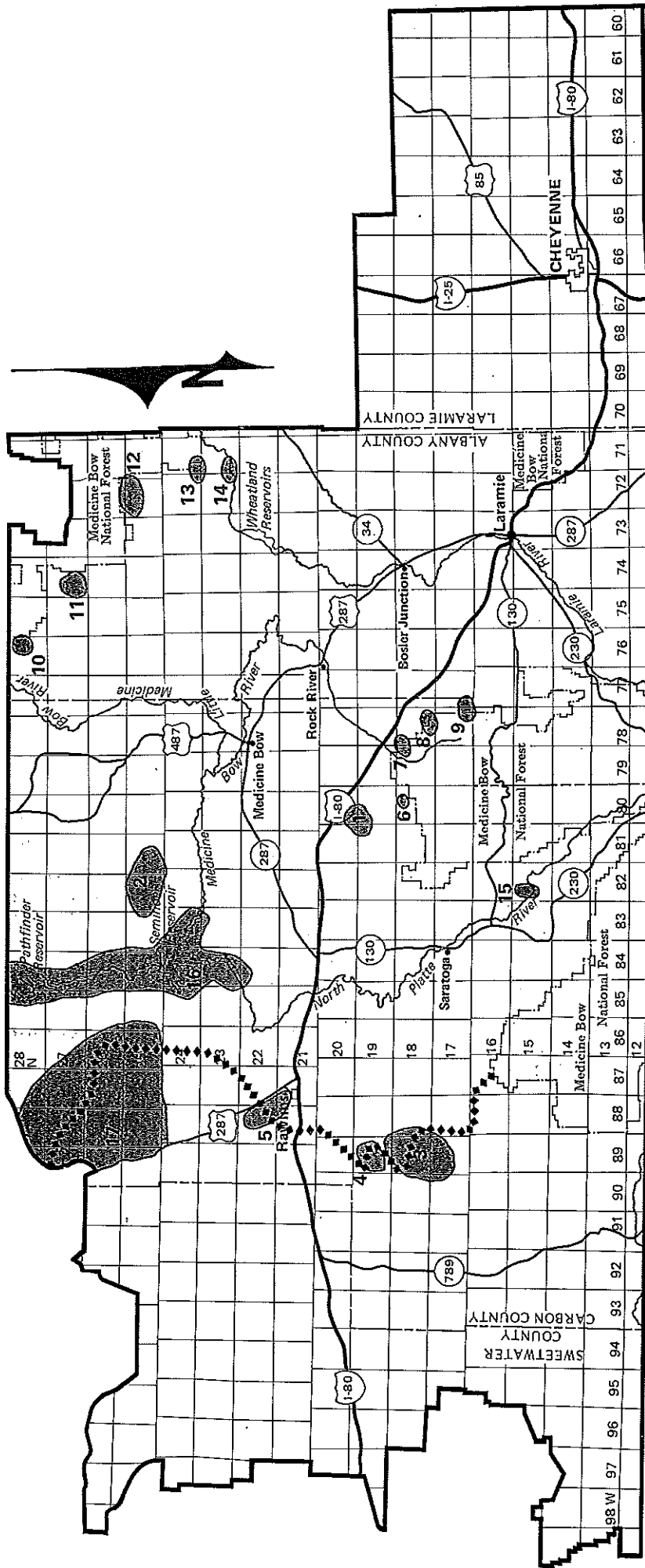
Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they are isolated and difficult to manage.

Map 12
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
LARAMIE COUNTY
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990




 Areas of public lands that may have future potential for disposal or transfer because they would meet important public objectives such as community expansion or economic development

Map 13
LANDS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISPOSAL
SOUTHERN CARBON COUNTY
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Area of Access Needs ◆◆◆◆◆ Continental Divide Trail 1 Elk Mountain 2 Shirley Mountains 3 Miller Hill 4 Atlantic Rim 5 Rawlins Uplift | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 White Rock Canyon 7 Arlington 8 Woodedge 9 Seven Mile 10 Little Medicine 11 Toltec 12 North Laramie River 13 Pine Mountain-Split Rock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Sugarloaf 15 Big Creek 16 Seminoe-Pathfinder Reservoirs 17 Ferris Mountains |
|--|--|---|

Map 14
AREAS OF ACCESS NEED
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

determine whether existing withdrawals are serving or needed for their intended purposes. These reviews are not a part of developing the RMP. Thus, no decisions are made on the termination of any withdrawals in this RMP. The existing withdrawals in the planning area will remain in place unless or until it is determined they should be terminated and, if necessary, a plan amendment to the Great Divide RMP is made. Such determination or amendment will be based upon full examination of the issues associated with withdrawal terminations, including the land use, environmental and other factors associated with opening public lands now closed to entry under the public land laws or to mineral location under the mining laws.

The BLM will initiate new withdrawals which would close areas to operation of the public land laws, including disposal, and to mineral location under the mining laws. This includes recreation sites, 650 acres; historic sites, 1,320 acres; and a rare plant population, 10 acres.

Further information on withdrawals is summarized in Table 1.

**TABLE 1
WITHDRAWAL SUMMARY**

Type of Withdrawal	Acreage ¹
Existing Withdrawals^{2,3}	
Stratton Hydrology	2,694
Administrative Sites (BLM)	93
Administrative Sites (FS)	720
Reclamation (BuRec)	73,290
Wildlife Refuges (FWS)	3,915
Air Navigation Sites (FAA)	440
Public Water Reserves ⁴	46,095
Oil Shale	564,758
Coal Withdrawals	610,170
Power Sites ⁵	5,150
Stock Driveways ⁵	263,258
New Withdrawal Initiatives²	
Encampment Campground	10
Corral Creek Campground ⁶	20
Bennett Peak Campground	20
Teton Reservoir Campground ⁶	160
Pryor Flats Campground ⁶	40
Dugway Recreation Sites ⁶	320
Nine-mile Recreation Sites ⁶	40
Fort Washakie Stage Station	640
Overland Trail	680
Big Creek Proposed Recreation Site	5
Prospect Creek Proposed Recreation Site	5
Jelm Mountain Proposed Recreation Site	10
Shirley Mountain Proposed Campground ⁶	20
Gibben's Beardtongue Site	10

**TABLE 1 (Continued)
WITHDRAWAL SUMMARY**

ABBREVIATIONS: BLM = Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; BuRec = Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior; FAA = Federal Aviation Administration; FS = Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; FWS = Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

¹ Due to overlaps, acreages are not additive.

² Except for powersites and stock driveways, these withdrawals segregate the land against operation of the public land laws and from mineral location under the 1872 General Mining Law.

³ These withdrawals are scheduled for future review. The recommendations from the reviews will be arrived at on a case-by-case basis. It is possible that portions of the Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals may be revoked, returning the lands to the jurisdiction of the BLM.

⁴ The original public water reserve withdrawals included segregation against the location of nonmetalliferous minerals. Withdrawal review reports completed in 1982 revealed that this segregation is unnecessary to protect the water sources. Public Water Reserve 107 also said that all water sources existing on the date of the withdrawal order were protected and withdrawn even if they were not noted to the official records. Therefore, 4,850 acres of previously unrecorded water sources are included.

Public water reserves withdrawn under Secretarial Order 107 and other classification orders will be reviewed to determine if they meet the retention requirements of legal opinions of the solicitor of the Department of the Interior and the agreement made between the state of Wyoming and the Department of Justice (for the Department of the Interior) regarding the adjudication of water rights. Withdrawals will be terminated on public water reserves that do not meet retention requirements.

⁵ These withdrawals segregate the land against operation of the public land laws but not the 1872 General Mining Law.

⁶ These withdrawal initiatives would replace segregations previously established with C&MU classification.

Classifications

Classification and Multiple Use Act (C&MU) of 1964
A notice of classification, published in the Federal Register of November 8, 1967, classified 3,650,000 acres in the planning area for retention and multiple use management. Of this, 3,916 acres of high value recreation lands were also segregated from mineral location. With the expiration of the C&MU Act and the passage of FLPMA, C&MU classifications for retention and multiple use were no longer necessary. Thus, except for the 3,916 acres segregated from mineral location, the C&MU classifications in the planning area were terminated.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Under the Great Divide RMP these remaining 3,916 acres of C&MU classifications will be terminated and managed as follows:

For those high value recreation areas, where about 600 acres of the C&MU classifications are to be replaced with withdrawals (see Table 1), the classifications will remain in effect until after the new withdrawals are in place.

Withdrawals are not necessary to provide appropriate management for the remaining 3,316 acres. These lands will be managed under the general provisions of the RMP.

2) Other Classifications Classifications on 4,197 acres for potential recreation and Public purpose (R&PP) uses under the R&PP Act of 1926 are no longer necessary and will be terminated.

Classifications on 15 acres for small tract sales are no longer necessary and will be terminated.

With the passage of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, all prior coal classifications protecting federal coal from mineral location on 671,768 acres are unnecessary and will be terminated.

Livestock Grazing Management Decisions

Introduction

There are three separate grazing EISs covering the Great Divide RMP planning area. Two of these EISs (the Divide Grazing EIS and the Seven Lakes Grazing EIS) were completed prior to developing the Great Divide RMP. The livestock grazing management decisions for the Divide Grazing EIS area and the Seven Lakes Grazing EIS area (see Map 15) will continue in effect as outlined in the Divide and Seven Lakes Rangeland Program Summaries (RPS). These two RPSs are incorporated into the Great Divide RMP by reference.

The RPS for the Medicine Bow Grazing EIS area (covered in the Great Divide RMP/EIS) will be developed in the near future. In conjunction with that RPS, a single set of priorities encompassing all three grazing EIS areas will be developed to coordinate the entire rangeland management program for the Great Divide planning area.

Management Objective (pertaining to the Great Divide planning area in general)

To enhance livestock grazing while maintaining a balance between economic uses and the enhance-

ment of wildlife habitat, watershed, and riparian areas, and while maintaining or improving range condition over the long term.

Management Actions (pertaining to the Great Divide planning area in general)

Livestock grazing use in the planning area will be continued. Livestock grazing will also be managed to provide for protection or enhancement of other resource values

The total authorized livestock grazing use will not exceed the recognized active preference in the planning area. Currently, this is a maximum of 480,754 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of annual forage use (161,340 AUMs are in the Medicine Bow Grazing EIS area; 262,101 are in the Divide Grazing EIS area; and 57,313 in the Seven Lakes Grazing EIS area).

The current amounts, kinds and seasons of livestock grazing use will continue to be authorized until monitoring indicates a grazing use adjustment is necessary or that a class of livestock or season of use modification can be accommodated.

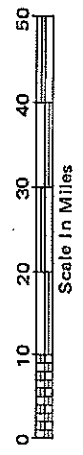
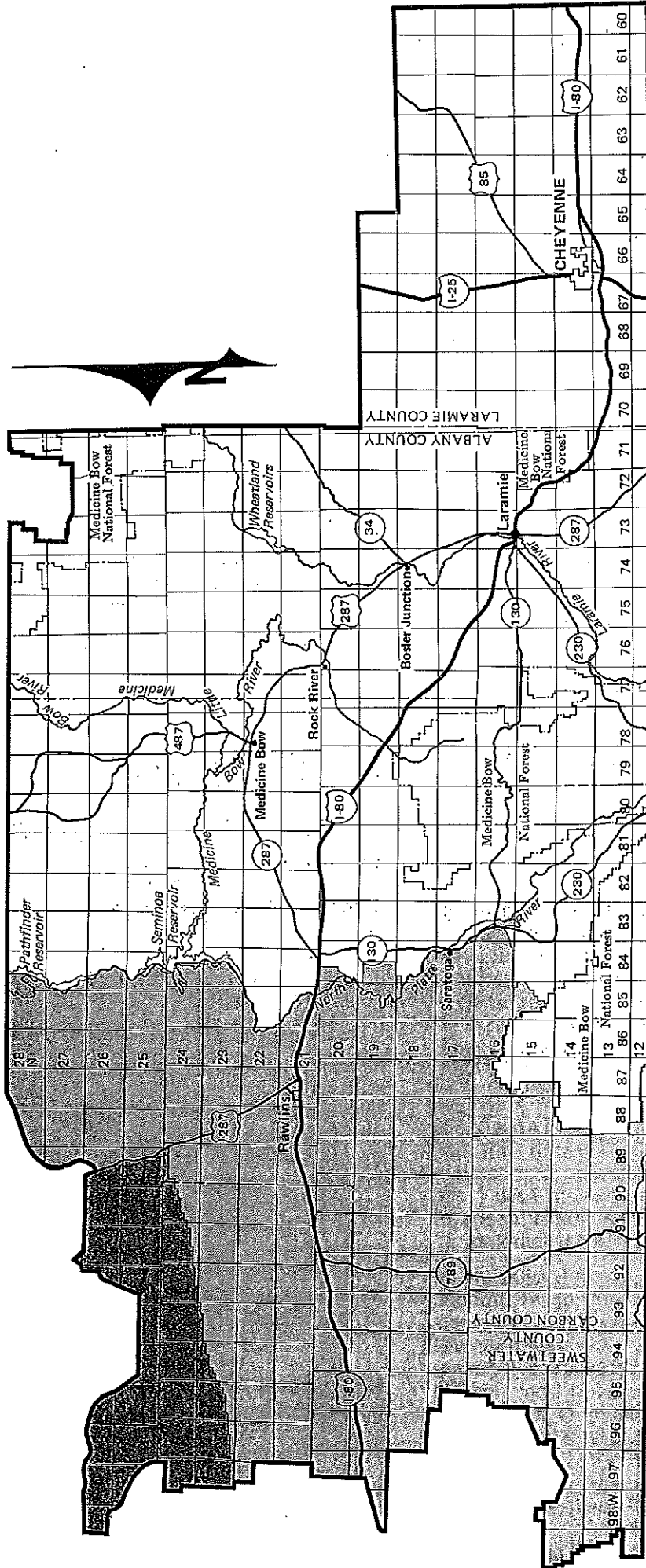
Requests for changes in seasons of use or kind of livestock will be considered case by case. Requests for conversions from sheep to cattle will be considered with management actions to maintain or improve riparian conditions.




Any adjustments in livestock grazing use will be consistent with current policies and procedures and as a result of inventories, monitoring studies and consultation, coordination or negotiation with grazing permittees. Adjustments may also result from land use planning decisions to change the allocation of land uses or from transfers of BLM administered public lands to other agency jurisdictions or into non-federal ownership.

The Great Divide rangeland monitoring plan will be reviewed and updated annually. This monitoring plan, which details the type and purpose of monitoring to be done at the allotment level is on file in the Great Divide Resource Area Office. The Wyoming minimum monitoring standards are shown in Table 2.

Grazing systems will be designed to achieve the livestock grazing objective. Existing allotment management plans, (AMPs) will be maintained and updated as necessary. New AMPs will be developed for selected grazing allotments as funding allows. "I" allotments have first priority.

Existing types and levels of grazing use will be continued in "M" allotments. Proposals to change existing use may require changes in the allotment categorization and level of management attention and monitoring. Maintenance and development of range improvements may be undertaken to enhance



-  Seven Lakes Grazing EIS Area
-  Divide Grazing EIS Area
-  Medicine Bow Grazing EIS Area

Map 15
GRAZING EIS AREAS
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 2
MINIMUM MONITORING STANDARDS

ELEMENT	CATEGORY				
	HIGH	I	LOW	M	C
Actual Use	Annually	Annually	— ¹	—	—
Climate	Annually	Annually	(Allotment supervision visit 1 year in 5)	(Allotment supervision visit as manpower allows)	—
Utilization	Annually (Includes allotment map of utilization)	1 year in 5 (Includes allotment map of utilization)	—	—	—
Trend (Permanent Photo-Point)	Yes	Yes	Optional	—	—
Trend (Other)	Discretion of Area Manager	—	—	—	—
Allotment Management Plan	Draft AMP by end of 5 years	—	—	—	—

¹ A dash (—) signifies no minimum standard.

multiple-use values. Private investment will be encouraged and authorized when consistent with the multiple-use objectives for the allotment.

Grazing use in "C" allotments will continue at present levels. Proposals for changes in use will be reviewed and allowed if they do not conflict with other values. Private investment in range improvements will be allowed when it does not conflict with multiple-use of the public land in the allotment.

Management Actions Specific to the Medicine Bow Grazing EIS Area

Livestock grazing will continue to be excluded from the Pennock Mountain Wildlife Habitat Area (6,285 acres), the Wick Wildlife Habitat Area (320 acres), the Laramie Peak Wildlife Habitat Area (2,858 acres), and the Syblille Wildlife Research Unit (680 acres). A grazing agreement has been negotiated in the Split Rock/Duck Creek Agreement Area (1760 acres) which accommodates the special needs of the Bighorn Sheep using the area for lambing.

A projected 1,725 acres of riparian habitat will be the object for development of grazing treatments. Special riparian needs will be the primary consideration in the location and design of range improvements and grazing systems in these areas. If necessary, livestock use will be excluded from riparian areas until they improve sufficiently to support limited seasonal grazing.

Special attention will be given to maintenance of wildlife habitat on 13,140 acres that contain crucial winter range for big game and other important habitat. These areas will also receive special attention in the development and implementation of AMPs and other activity plans (see Maps 16, 17, and 18).

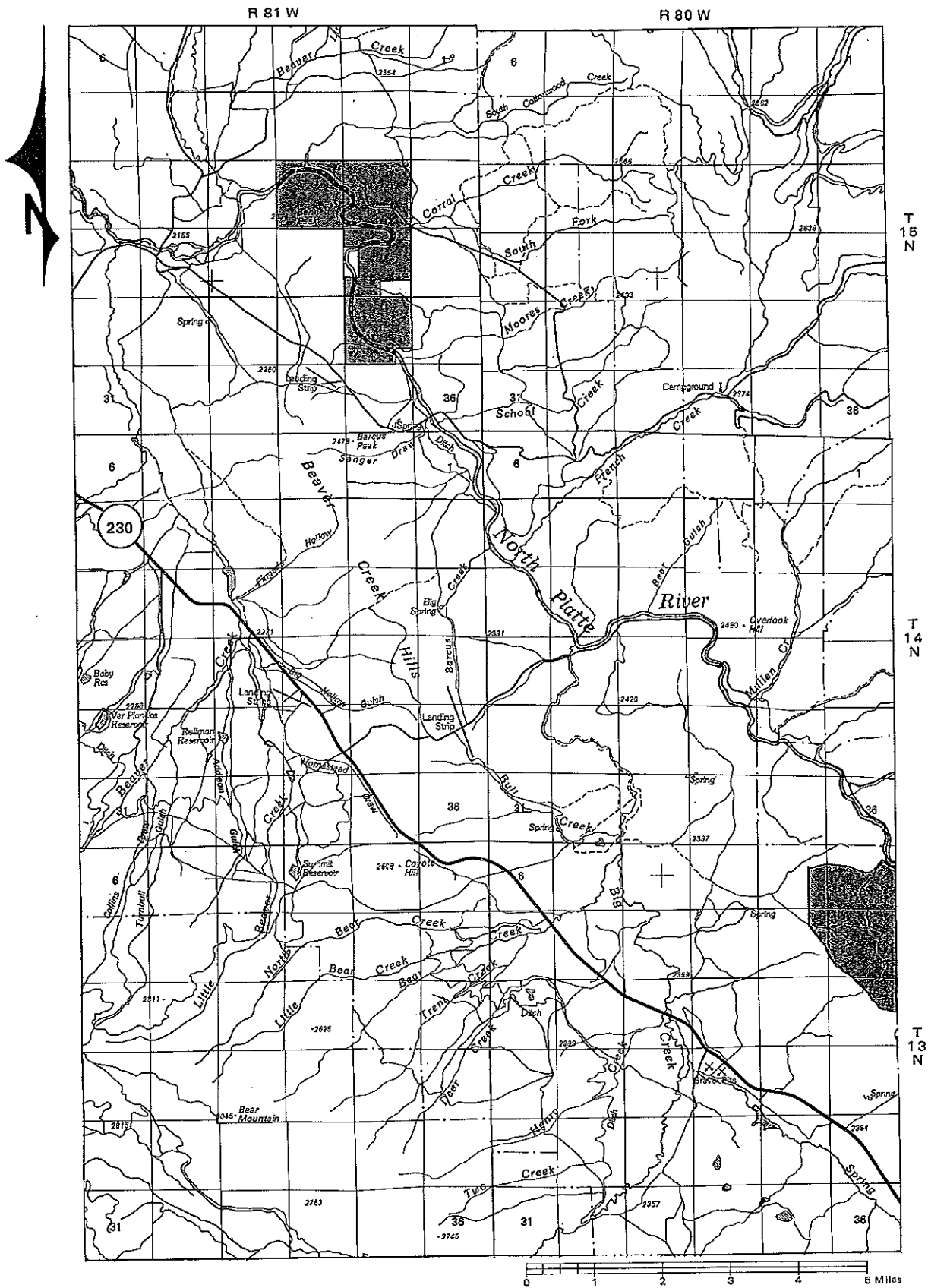
Minerals Management Decisions

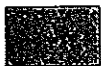
Leasable Minerals

Coal

Management Objectives To provide for both short- and long-range development of federal coal in an orderly and timely manner, consistent with the policies of the federal coal management program, environmental integrity, national energy needs, and related demands; to protect important resources by specifying whether federal coal can be leased for surface, subsurface, or in situ mining methods; and to allow analysis of alternative areas in consideration of future leasing activities.

Management Actions The federal coal areas with potential for coal development are shown on

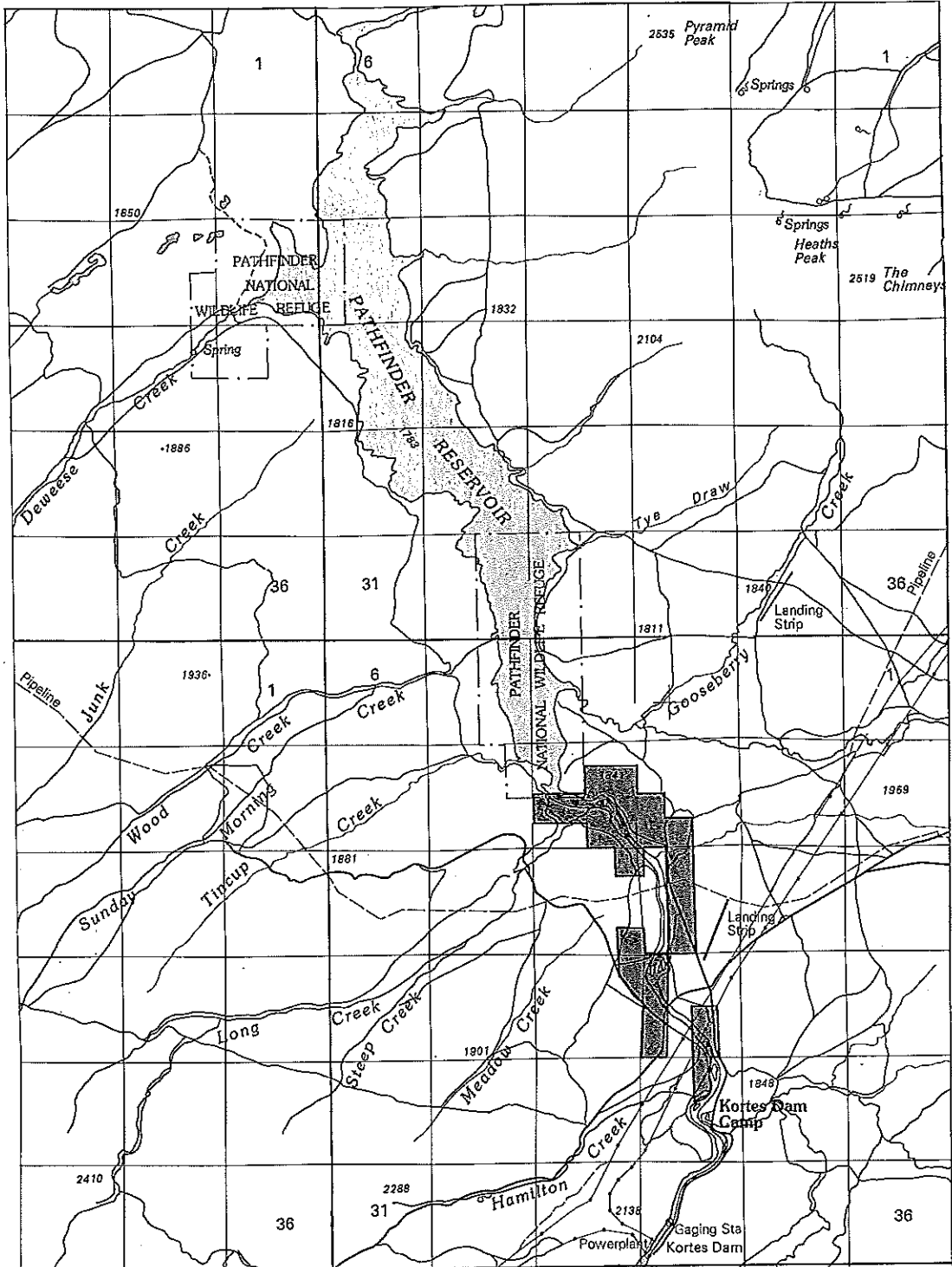


 Livestock grazing could occur on both areas with special attention for maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Map 16
IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITATS IDENTIFIED
FOR SPECIAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT
BENNETT PEAK AND PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

R 85 W

R 84 W



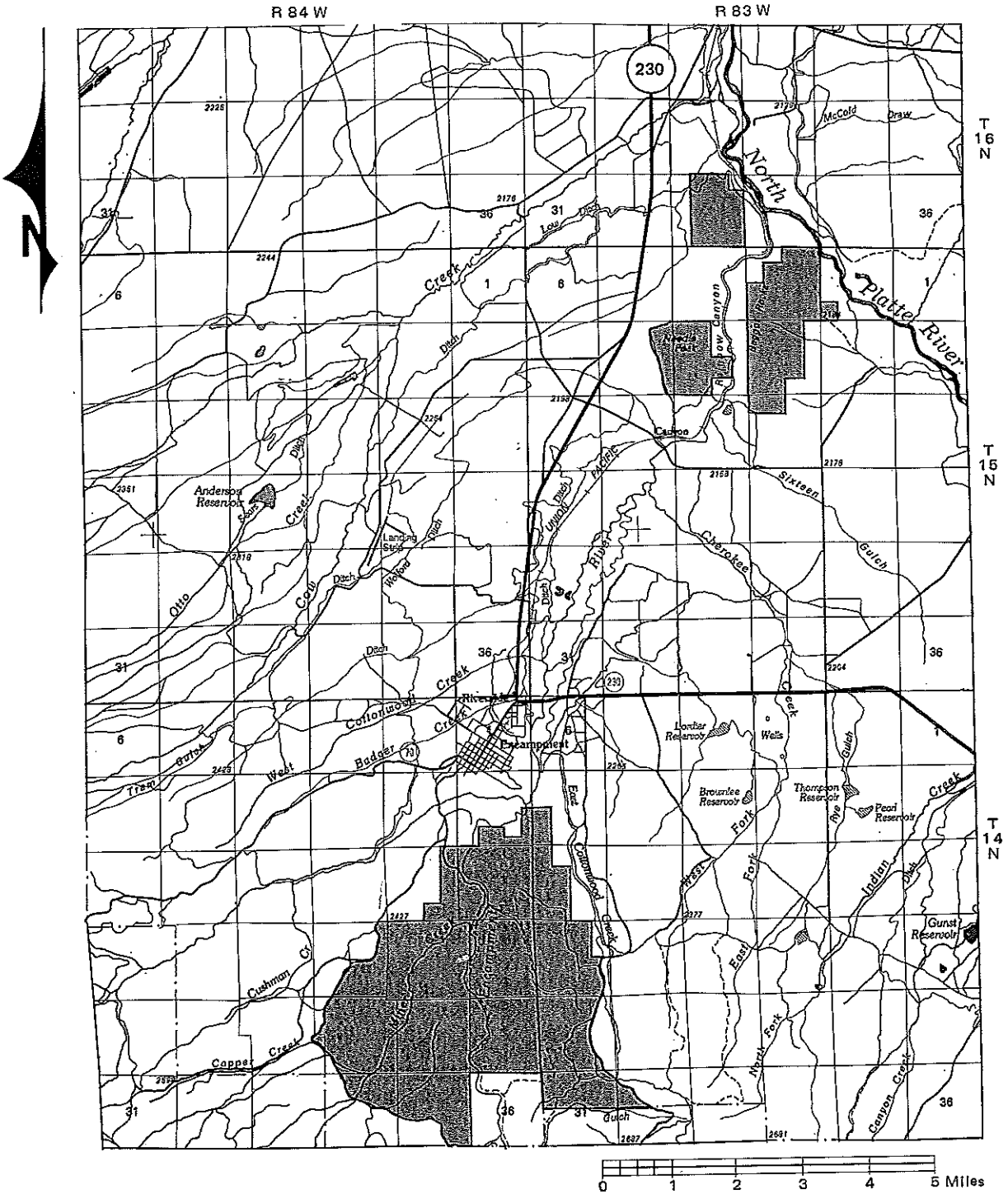
T 27 N


T 26 N



Livestock grazing could occur on this area with special attention for maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Map 17
IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITATS IDENTIFIED
FOR SPECIAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT
MIRACLE MILE
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990



 Livestock grazing could occur on both areas with special attention for maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Map 18
**IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITATS IDENTIFIED
 FOR SPECIAL LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT
 ENCAMPMENT RIVER CANYON**
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Map 19. Those areas acceptable for further consideration for leasing (through lease applications or coal activity planning) are listed below. The mitigative measures developed in the coal screening process will be applied in these areas as described in Appendix II. All other federal coal areas within the planning area are unavailable for leasing consideration.

Federal coal areas acceptable for further leasing consideration:

Hanna Basin—About 29,280 acres of public land and 760 acres of split estate lands containing about 190.6 million tons of Federal coal.

North Indian Springs—About 3,840 acres of public land containing about 25.0 million tons of Federal coal (acceptable for leasing consideration only for in situ coal development).

Indian Springs—About 2,500 acres of public land containing about 25.0 million tons of Federal coal (acceptable for leasing consideration only for in situ coal development).

Red Rim—About 9,720 acres of public land containing about 40.6 million tons of Federal coal.

China Butte—About 6,240 acres of public land containing about 73.9 million tons of Federal coal.

Atlantic Rim—About 2,850 acres of public land and 800 acres of split estate lands containing about 79.1 million tons of Federal coal.

Development Sequence:

A north-to-south coal development sequence will be followed in the entire area west of Rawlins and south of I-80 as needs are identified.

The BLM will process all applications for leasing in areas identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing. For each application, BLM will conduct a site-specific environmental analysis and will consider the development sequence described above and other environmental and socioeconomic factors (see Appendix II).

Savery Preference Right (coal) Lease Applications (PRLAs)—Serial Numbers WYW-0324034, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42

Development of the federal coal in the Savery PRLA area will not be allowed and no further consideration will be given to federal coal leasing in the area.

While the Great Divide proposed RMP/Final EIS was being printed (August 1988), the final showing for the Savery PRLAs, submitted by the applicant, was determined by BLM to be inadequate and the applications were rejected. Lacking any contest of this action by the applicant, the Sav-

ery PRLA case files (the only PRLAs in the Great Divide planning area) were closed. Thus, there is no longer any potential for PRLAs to influence the above decided north-to-south coal development sequence in the planning area.

In considering the Savery PRLA area for inclusion in the competitive federal coal leasing process, it was determined that the federal coal in the area has no development potential. The reasons for lacking development potential are the same as those explained in Appendix II (i.e., under the Coal Planning Process, Step 1: Identification of Development Potential Coal). In addition, the Record of Decision for the Savery Coal EIS (BLM, 1985) adopted the no (coal) development alternative for the Savery PRLA area because the significant resource impacts and land use conflicts that would result could not be acceptably mitigated. That situation has not changed and the no development decision is still appropriate for the foreseeable future.

Oil and Gas

Management Objective To provide opportunity for leasing, exploration, and development of oil and gas while protecting other resource values.

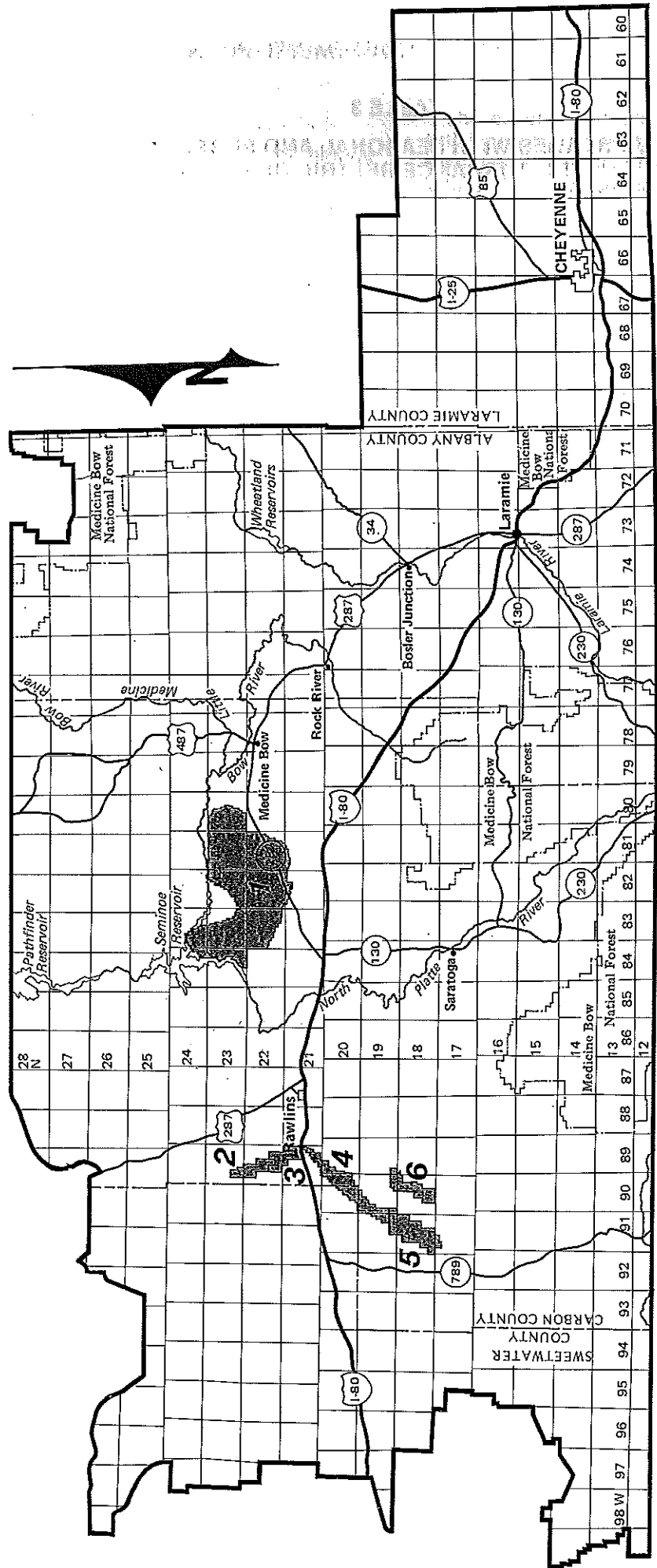
Management Actions The entire planning area is open to oil and gas leasing. Leases will be issued with needed restrictions to protect the resources listed in Table 3.







Surface-disturbing activities will be restricted and intensively managed to maintain important resource values in the ACECs, the Baggs Elk Crucial Winter Range, and in overlapping crucial winter ranges for the various big game species. (See the individual ACEC and wildlife sections.)

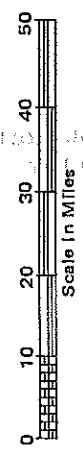
All lands that are open to oil and gas leasing are also open to geophysical exploration.

In cases where Federal oil and gas leases are or have been issued (1) without stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be necessary; or (2) with stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be insufficient; the needed restrictions or requirements may be included in approving subsequent exploration and development activities. These restrictions or requirements may only be included as reasonable measures or as conditions of approval (COA) in authorizing applications for permit to drill (APD), sundry notices, or plans of development (POD).

Conversely, in cases where leases are or have been issued with stipulated restrictions or require-



-  Hanna Basin
-  North Indian Springs
-  Indian Springs
-  Red Rim
-  China Butte
-  Atlantic Rim



Map 19
AREAS WITH POTENTIAL FOR COAL DEVELOPMENT
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 3
ACREAGES WITH SEASONAL AND SURFACE
DISTURBANCE RESTRICTIONS

TYPE OF AREA	ESTIMATED ACREAGE
Steep Slopes	320,000
Riparian areas and/or perennial surface water	140,000
Historic trails	43,000
VRM Class I and Class II areas	194,000
Existing and proposed recreation sites	560
North Platte River SRMA (¼ mile on either side of the river)	3,550
Sage grouse leks	22,900
High priority wildlife habitat	240,000
Raptor concentration areas (see map 8)	60,000
Baggs crucial winter range for elk	79,000
Overlapping big game crucial winter range	122,880

NOTE: The above acreages are estimates based on the best available information and may not include all reasons for the restrictions. They are intended to give the reader a concept of the area involved. Some acreages may overlap. Seasonal restrictions, to protect wildlife during critical periods, will be applied to about 1.4 million acres. This acreage includes raptor concentration areas, sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat, and big game crucial winter range and birthing areas. It overlaps with some of the acreages listed above.

ments that are later found to be excessive or unnecessary, the stipulated restrictions or requirements may be appropriately modified, excepted or waived in authorizing APDs, sundry notices, or PODs.

NOTE: Both the application of reasonable measures or COAs and the modification, exception or waiver of stipulated restrictions or requirements must first be based upon site specific analysis of individual APDs, sundry notices, or PODs, including the necessary supporting NEPA documentation.

Other Leasable Minerals

Management Objective To provide opportunity for leasing, exploration, and development of oil shale, geothermal resources, and nonenergy leasable minerals while protecting other resource values.

Management Actions The entire planning area is open to leasing of oil shale, geothermal resources, and nonenergy leasable minerals.

Lease applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values will be based on interdisciplinary review of individual proposals and environmental analysis.

Locatable Minerals

Management Objective

To provide opportunity for location of mining claims and mineral development while prohibiting such activities on lands that are not compatible with these types of activities.

Management Actions

The entire planning area is open to location of mining claims and mineral development except for areas that are closed or to be closed and withdrawn from mineral location. These areas are shown in Table 1.

All locatable minerals actions will be reviewed to assure compliance with the BLM bonding policy for surface disturbing activities.

Salable Minerals

Management Objective

To provide availability of mineral materials in convenient locations for users while protecting surface resources.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Actions

The planning area is open to the sale of mineral materials.

Sales will be considered on a case by case basis. Stipulations to protect important resource values will be based on interdisciplinary review and analysis of individual proposals.

Recreation Management Decisions

Management objectives

To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities, to meet legal requirements for the health and safety of visitors and to mitigate conflicts with other resource uses.

Management Actions

Recreation Areas and Sites

Existing Sites Maintenance of existing developed and undeveloped recreation sites will be continued.

Existing activity plans for the Nine Mile Hill and Big Creek sites will be revised before implementation.

New Sites Priority for development of new recreation sites will be as follows: (1) a boat launch and a picnic area at Prospect Creek, (2) a recreation site at Jelm Mountain, and (3) a recreation site in the Shirley Mountains. (See Map 20). Additional sites will be considered for development in the future as opportunities arise.

Special Recreation Management Areas

The designated special recreation management areas (SMRAs) are shown on Map 21. These areas will be managed as follows:

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail SRMA This SRMA covers 80 miles of trail through BLM-administered public land. The area will be managed to provide opportunities for trail users to view the diverse topographic, geologic, vegetative, and scenic phenomena and wildlife that characterize the Continental Divide and to observe examples of human use of the natural resources.

The exact trail route will be identified through activity planning, which also will determine where easements or rights-of-way will be needed on private or state-owned land.

North Platte River SRMA This 3,550-acre SRMA will be managed to provide high-quality recreational opportunities, especially for boating, fishing, camping, and sightseeing.

Management also will be aimed at providing public facilities and continued access.

Surface-disturbing activities within ¼ mile on either side of the river will be restricted to maintain the quality of the visual resources. An activity plan has been written for a portion of this area. That plan will be revised to include the entire SRMA.

Shirley Mountains Caves SRMA This 24,800-acre SRMA will be managed to provide for protection and enjoyment of the cave system while other resource uses will be allowed aboveground (see Map 22). Specific recreation management guidelines and surface use guidelines will be developed during activity planning.

Off-Road Vehicle Management

An ORV implementation plan will be prepared for the resource area. More details on off-road vehicle use and management will be developed in this implementation plan.

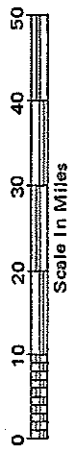
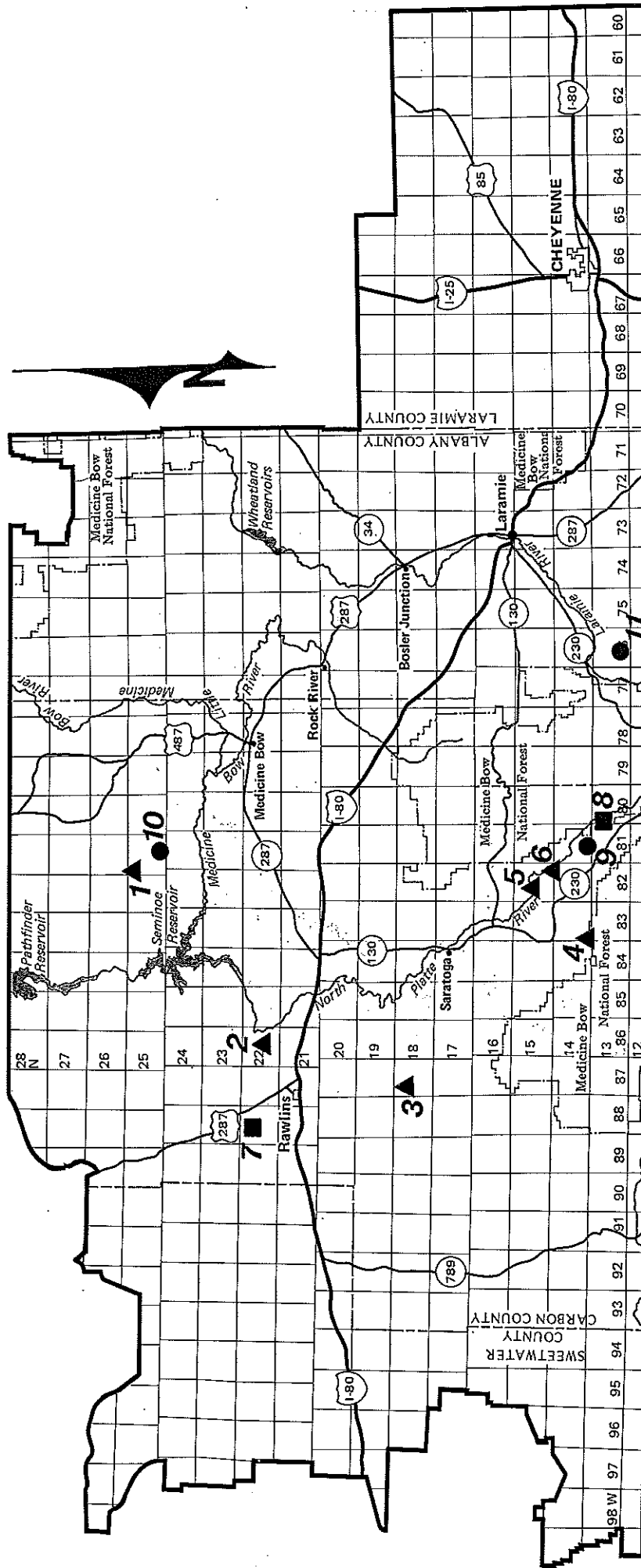
The BLM will coordinate and cooperate with owners of adjacent properties, interested individuals, organizations, and agencies in preparing plans for implementation of the following ORV designations (also see Map 23).

General Planning Area With some exceptions, the planning area is open to use of motorized over-the-snow vehicles, provided that they do not adversely affect wildlife or vegetation. With some exceptions, all other motorized vehicle use in the planning area is limited to existing roads and trails. These exceptions are:

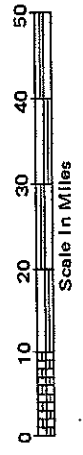
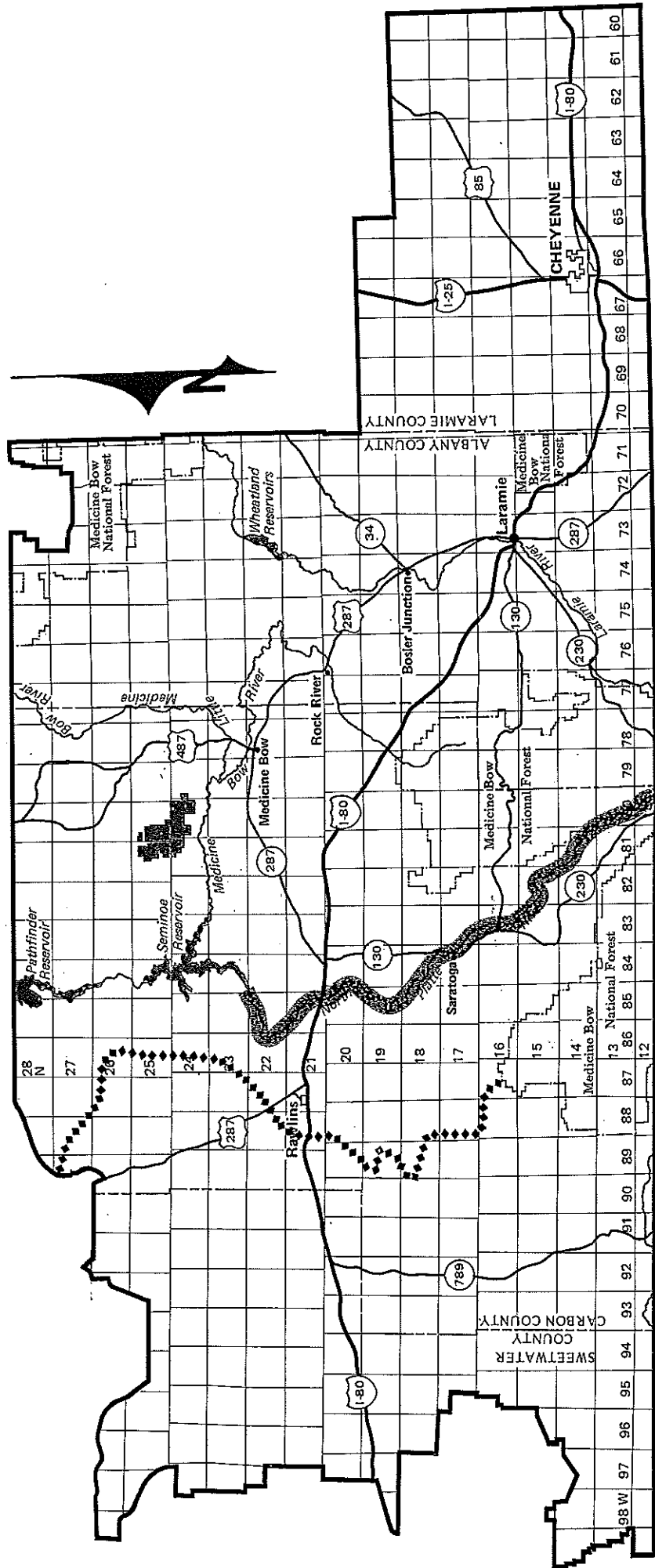
- Pennock Mountain and Wick Wildlife Habitat Areas (crucial elk winter range - about 10,126 acres).




These areas are closed to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, from November 15 to April 30.

- Encampment Canyon crucial big horn winter range (about 6,700 acres)



- ▲ DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES
- 1 Pryor Flat
- 2 Dugway
- 3 Teton Reservoir
- 4 Encampment River
- 5 Bennett Peak
- 6 Corral Creek
- UNDEVELOPED RECREATION SITE
- 7 Nine Mile Hill
- 8 Big Creek
- PROPOSED RECREATION SITE
- 9 Prospect Creek
- 10 Shirley Mountains
- 11 Jelm Mountain



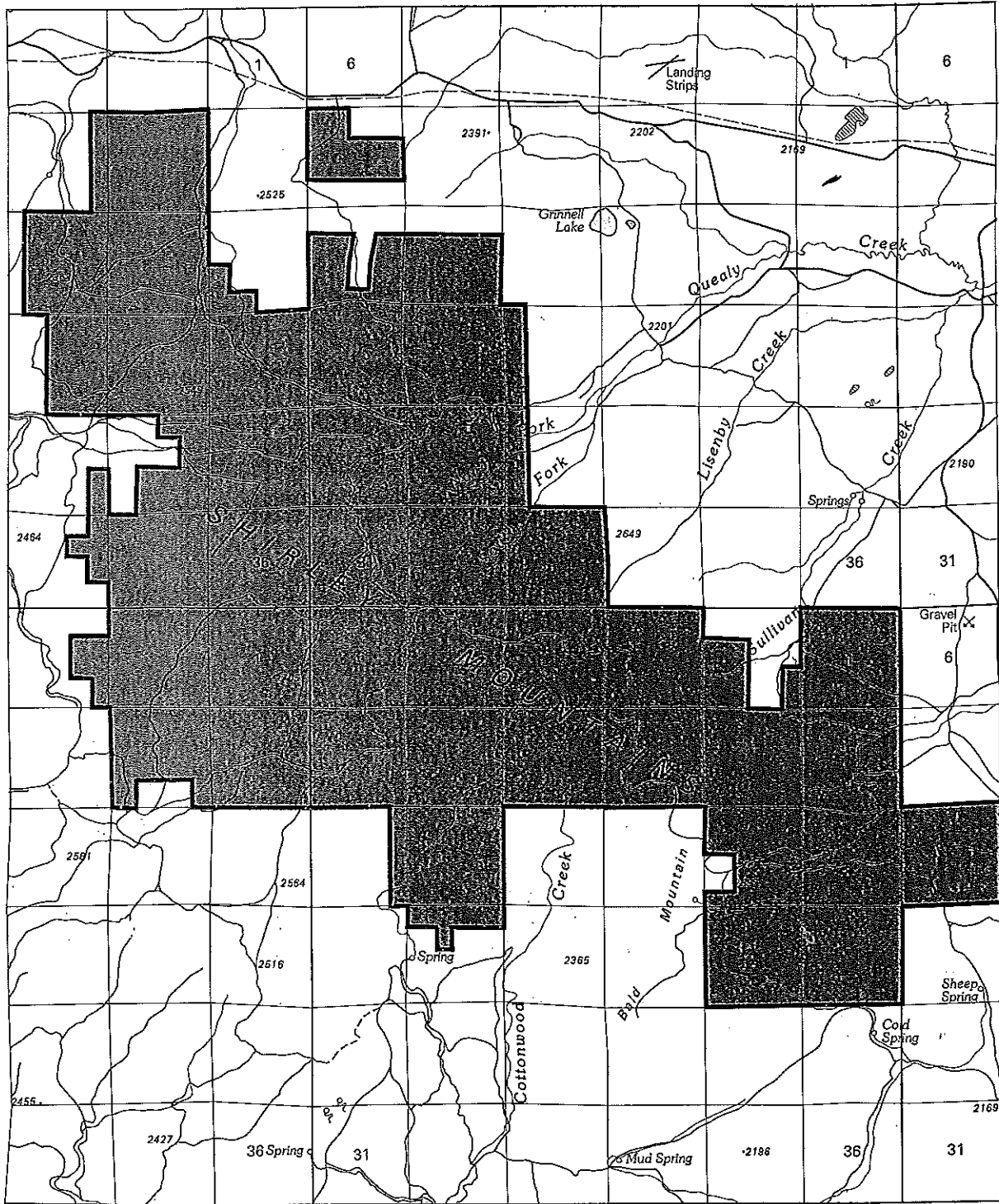
-  Shirley Mountain Caves
-  North Platte River
-  Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

Map 21
SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

R 82 W

R 81 W

R 80 W









T 26 N

T 25 N

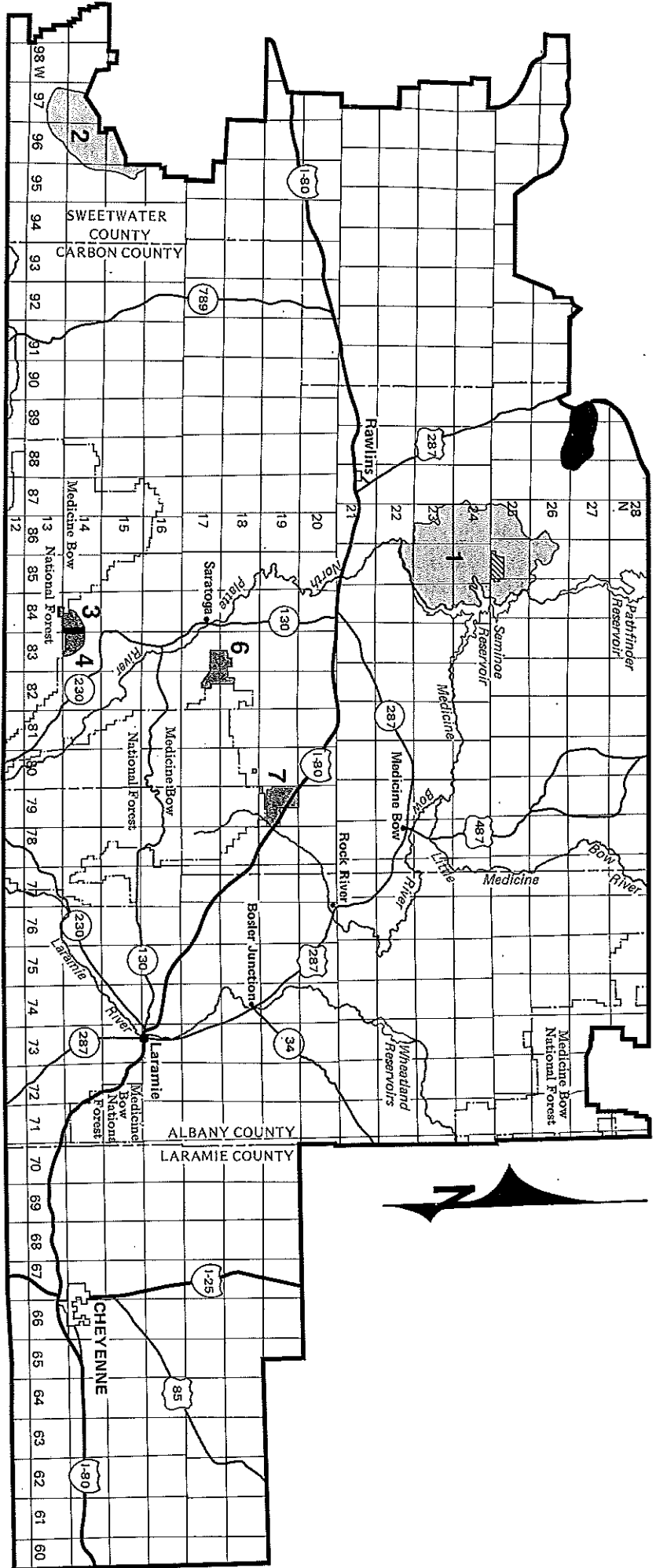


Special Management Area

Map 22
 SHIRLEY MOUNTAINS CAVES
 SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA
 Great Divide Resource Management Area
 November, 1990

-  ORV Travel Limited to Open Sand Areas West of the Highway and Existing Roads and Trails
-  ORV Travel Limited to Designated Roads and Trails
-  Closed to ORVs from Dec 1 - April 30
-  Closed to all Vehicles from Nov. 15 - April 30
-  Closed to all Vehicles Yearlong
-  ORV Travel Limited to Existing Roads and Trails

- 1 West Seminoe and Dune Ponds
- 2 Adobe Town (See Adobe Town-Ferris Mtns. Wilderness FEIS)
- 3 Encampment River Canyon (See Great Divide Wilderness FEIS)
- 4 Encampment River Trail (See Great Divide Wilderness FEIS)
- 5 Ferris Mountains (See Adobe Town-Ferris Mtns Wilderness FEIS)
- 6 Pennock Mountains Wildlife Habitat Area
- 7 Wick Brothers Wildlife Habitat Area



Map 23
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This area is closed to motorized vehicle use, including over-the-snow vehicles, from December 1 to April 30.

- Encampment River Trail

Those portions of this trail that cross BLM administered public lands are closed to all types of motorized vehicle use, year-round.

- Dune Ponds Cooperative Management Area (3,240 acres)

Motorized vehicle use is limited to open sand areas west of Carbon County Road 351 and to existing roads and trails in the rest of the area.

- West Seminoe Area (99,162 acres)

Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails to help resolve resource conflicts and preserve public access.

- Ferris Mountains

This area is closed to all types of motorized vehicle use, year-round (see Adobe Town/Ferris Mountains Wilderness Final EIS).

- Adobe Town

Motorized vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails (see Adobe Town/Ferris Mountains Wilderness Final EIS).

Specific Problem Areas Plans for rehabilitation or mitigation of ORV use will be developed and implemented for specific problem areas within the Sand Hills area and the Dune Ponds Cooperative Management Area.

Because of the mixed landownership pattern and multiple resource concerns, completion of an effective ORV implementation plan for the Dune Ponds area is entirely dependent on close coordination with private land owners of adjacent property, the Wyoming State Land Board, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and other interested parties. The plan will also be closely coordinated with the wildlife, soils, and livestock grazing programs to ensure multiple resource concerns are addressed.

Access to Recreation Areas

Consistent with the Wyoming BLM access policy, the BLM will pursue opportunities to acquire legal access to certain areas to ensure continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities. See Lands Program - Access section for the areas needing access.

Consolidation of Landownership

Consolidation of landownership will be pursued in the following areas to increase recreational opportunities for the public. The areas in order of priority are: High - Bennett Peak, Dugway, Miracle Mile, North Platte River area; moderate - Dune Ponds, Elk Mountain, Shirley Mountains caves; and low - Bennett Mountains, Encampment River Canyon, Ferris Mountains. The preferred method of consolidation is through exchange.

Sensitive Plants Management Decisions

Gibben's Beardtongue Site (about 10 acres)

Management Objective

To maintain or enhance the population of Gibben's beardtongue (*Penstemon gibbensii*) in the site area.

Management Actions

The known population of Gibben's beardtongue will be protected from disturbance by maintaining the fencing around the population and by intensively managing surface disturbing activities in adjacent areas that could affect the population. Case by case examination of any proposed surface disturbing activity will be made to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Developments, uses and facilities will be managed temporally and spatially to avoid damage to the sensitive plant species.

Established trend studies will be continued.

BLM intends to close this area to mineral location. A withdrawal will be initiated to implement this closure.

Muddy Gap Cushion Plant Community (about 100 acres)

Management Objective

To maintain or enhance the population of the Muddy Gap Cushion Plant Community.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Actions

Notices will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) consistent with regulations. A plan of operations will be required for disturbance of more than 5 acres.

The BLM will coordinate management of the plant community with The Nature Conservancy. If a need for protective measures is indicated, they will be taken to protect the plant community.

Persistent Sepal Yellowcress

Management Objective

To maintain or enhance the population of persistent sepal yellowcress (*Rorippa calycina*).

Management Actions

The planning area contains fifteen known populations of the persistent sepal yellowcress (*Rorippa calycina*) plant which has been proposed for threatened or endangered status. Some of this is on land administered by the Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec); therefore, the BLM will coordinate with BuRec to manage populations of persistent sepal yellowcress. In addition, the BLM will coordinate with county weed and pest control districts to ensure that populations of the plant are not affected by weed control programs. Since locations and degree of occurrence of this plant are extremely unstable, no acreage estimates have been attempted. Occurrence fluctuates with high and low reservoir or stream water lines.

Soil, Water, and Air Management Decisions

Management Objectives

To prevent the deterioration of air quality beyond applicable local, state, or federal standards and to enhance air resources where practicable.

To prevent impairment of important scenic values that may be caused by declining air quality.

To maintain soil cover and productivity where they are adequate and to increase soil cover and productivity where they are in a downward trend.

To maintain riparian areas in good or excellent condition and to improve riparian areas that are in fair or poor condition.

To control flood and sediment damage from natural or human-induced causes.

To reduce salt loading in watersheds that lie within the Colorado River Basin.

To meet or exceed established standards for quality of surface water and groundwater where water quality has been lowered by human-induced causes.

To provide for physical and legal availability of water for use by the public and by federal, state, and local agencies for fisheries and wildlife and for livestock, recreational, municipal, and industrial uses.

Management Actions

The BLM will implement intensive land-use practices to mitigate salt and sediment loading caused by surface-disturbing activities. These practices will be carried out in the following areas in priority order: (1) Muddy Creek, (2) Sage Creek, (3) Second and Third Sand creeks, and (4) the Little Snake River Basin (excluding the Muddy Creek watershed). Watershed or other activity plans will address site specific problems and will include monitoring for salt and sediment loading.

In other areas, the BLM will carry out watershed management practices designed to meet soils, water, and air resource management objectives. These practices will be included in activity plans such as AMPs and HMPs.

Surface disturbing activities will be prohibited on unstable areas unless it can be demonstrated that the instability can be alleviated. Specific unstable areas such as landslides, slumps, and areas exhibiting soil creep will be identified individually.

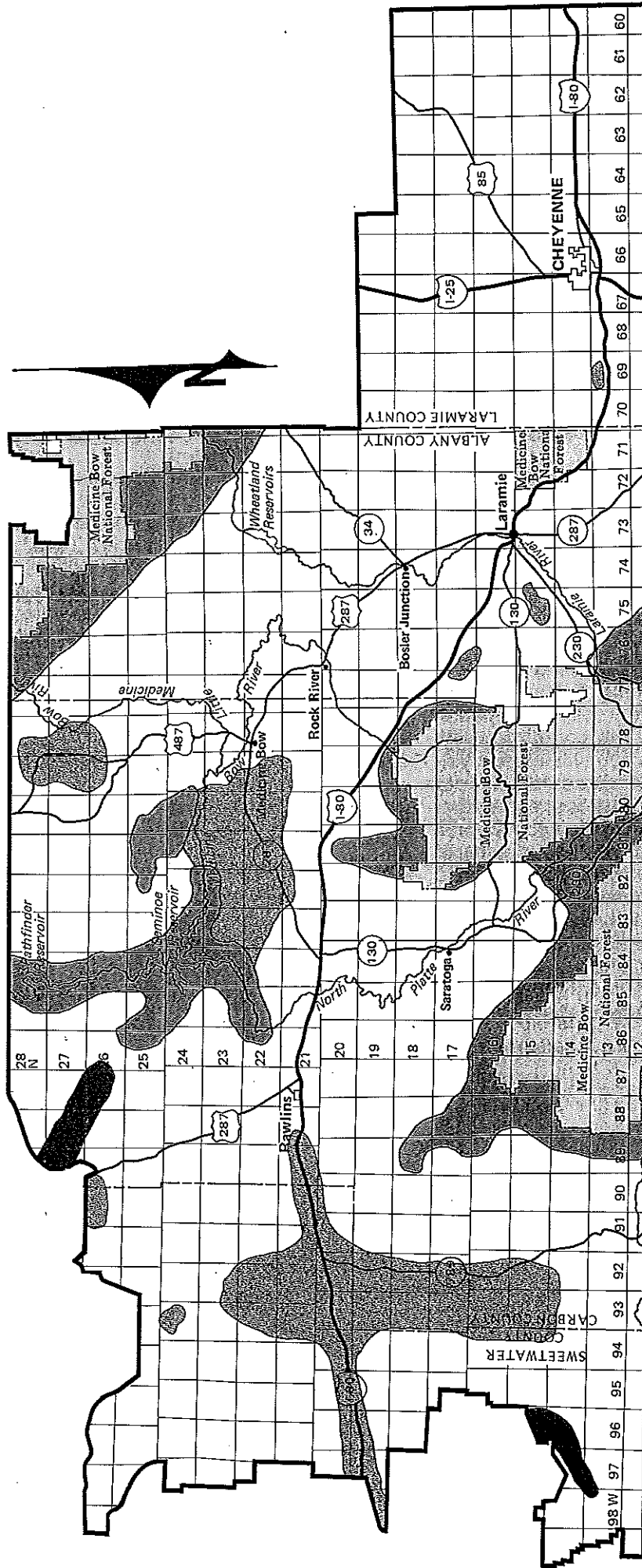
Visual Resource Management Decisions

Management Objective

To minimize adverse effects on visual resources while maintaining the effectiveness of land-use allocations.

Management Actions

The planning area will be managed according to visual resource management (VRM) classes as follows: Class I, 33,165 acres; Class II, 160,640 acres; Class III, 3,582,195 acres; Class IV, 224,000 acres (See Map 24).



- Class I
- Class II
- Class III
- Class IV
- USFS Land - Not included in any VRM Class

Map 24
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wild Horse Management

Management Objectives

To protect, maintain, and control a viable, healthy herd of wild horses while retaining their free-roaming nature and to provide adequate habitat for free-roaming wild horses through management consistent with environmental protection and enhancement policies.

Management Actions

There are three wild horse herd management areas (WHHMA) within the resource area. They are the Adobe Town WHHMA, the Flat Top WHHMA, and the Seven Lakes WHHMA (see Map 25). Each of these areas is covered by a herd management area plan (HMAP). Current management levels for these areas are Adobe Town, 300-500; Flat Top, 40-100; and Seven Lakes, 66-135. Monitoring in these areas is ongoing. Herd management levels for each area will be evaluated to determine whether they are at appropriate management levels as soon as sufficient monitoring data are available. At that time, the HMAPs will be revised if necessary.

Wildlife Habitat and Fisheries Management Decisions

Introduction

The 29 standard habitat types in the Great Divide Resource Area have been ranked by management priority into three categories. High priority habitat types, which usually support a large number of wildlife species, are not common in the planning area. Sound management is required to ensure maintenance or improvement of the vegetative composition and structure of moderate priority habitat types, which usually are of lesser importance to wildlife but are in greater supply than high priority types. In low priority habitat types, there is less vegetative diversity. Because of their abundance and lower wildlife value, these types can be more heavily used by conflicting resources without significant wildlife impacts.

Management Objectives - General

To provide habitat quality (food, cover, space, and water) adequate to support a natural diversity of wildlife and fisheries, including big game, upland game, waterfowl, non-game species, game fish, sensitive,

threatened, and endangered species, species of special management interest in Wyoming, as well as to assist in meeting goals of recovery plans.

To maintain or improve vegetation condition and/or avoid long-term disturbance in high priority standard habitat sites and fisheries areas.

To maintain or improve overall ecological quality, thus providing good wildlife habitat, within the constraints of multiple-use management in moderate and low priority standard habitat sites (see Table 4).

Management Actions

Habitat Management Areas

There will be 16 habitat management areas:

Six existing HMP areas: Baggs, Encampment/Bighorn Sheep, Ferris/Seminole, Red Desert, Sage Creek, and Shirley Mountains.

Five new HMP areas (of which one will be an addition to an existing area): Jelm Mountain, Laramie Peak, Sage Creek (addition), Saratoga Valley, and South Desert.

Five existing cooperative management agreement areas: Laramie Peak, Pennock Mountain, Wick, and Chain Lakes Wildlife Habitat Areas and the Sybille Wildlife Research Unit.

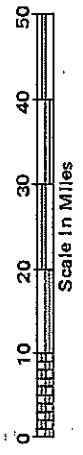
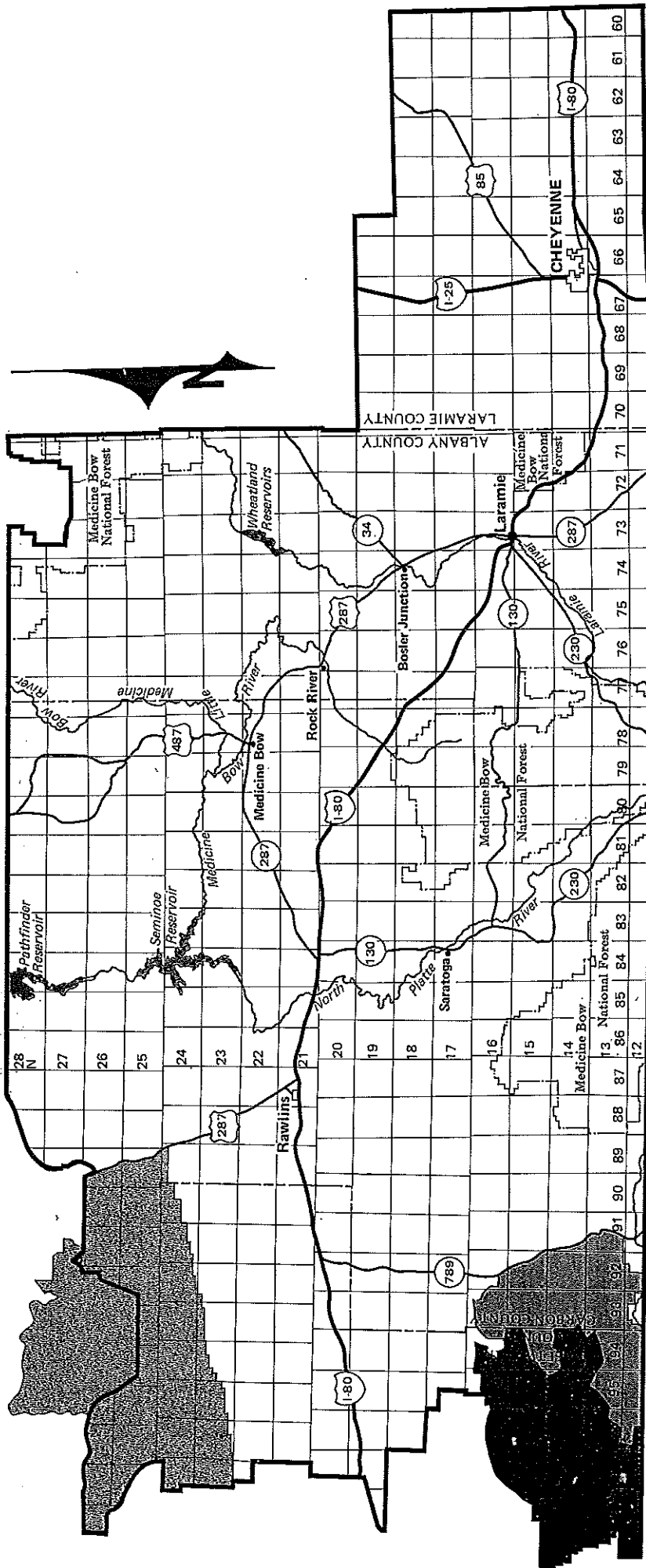
One new cooperative management agreement area: Dune Ponds (See ORV Management under Recreation Management Decisions).




Site specific management actions will be implemented in HMP areas and cooperative management areas to improve wildlife habitat. These site specific management actions will be identified in existing, revised, or proposed Habitat Management Plans (HMPs). These HMPs will also address transplants or augmentations of endemic wildlife species.

Wildlife and wildlife habitat inventory and monitoring will be implemented in all HMP areas, cooperative management areas and other portions of the planning area.

These inventories and monitoring studies will conform to Bureau policy and standards found in Bureau Manuals, Wyoming State Office Supplements and Wyoming Instruction Memorandums.

The estimated areas that will be involved in management actions in HMP areas are: 60 miles of streams (fisheries); 545 acres of reservoirs; 271,000 acres of raptor habitat; 243,000 acres of high priority habitat (including wetlands and riparian zone); and crucial winter range for big game species as follows: antelope, 375,000 acres; bighorn sheep, 23,000 acres; deer, 288,000 acres; elk, 153,000 acres.



-  Seven Lakes Wild Horse Management Area
-  Adobe Town Wild Horse Management Area
-  Flat Top Wild Horse Management Area

Map 25
WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE 4
RANKING OF STANDARD HABITAT TYPES

HIGH PRIORITY	MODERATE PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY ¹
Open aquatic	Greasewood-sagebrush riparian	Short grasslands
Riparian grassland	Big sagebrush-rabbitbrush	Saltbush steppe
Willow-waterbirch riparian	Bitterbrush	Greasewood
Aspen riparian	Sagebrush-mixed grass	Badland
Cottonwood riparian	Silver sagebrush steppe	True sand dunes
Mountain shrub	Lodgepole pine	Upland meadows
Utah juniper	Limber pine	
Quaking aspen	Early successional conifer	
Aspen conifer	Rockland	
Ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir	Saline sub-irrigated grassland	
Platte Valley rockland		
Laramie Peak rockland		
Wet forested meadow		

NOTE: Ranking is based on the wildlife communities (total species, number of breeders, number of rare species) combined with the availability of each type.

¹ High priority habitats are those that require intensive-management actions (data collection, enhancement, protection) to maintain their productivity as diverse wildlife communities; moderate-priority habitats are those that require less intensive management to maintain their productivity as wildlife communities; low-priority habitats are those that can be more heavily used by conflicting resources so that the higher priority wildlife habitats can be maintained.

Raptor Concentration Areas

Management Objectives To manage resources so that productivity of nesting raptor pairs is maintained, while allowing for development of coal and oil and gas, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of raptor nesting habitat.

Management Actions Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed in all RCAs to reduce physical disturbance of raptor habitat and disturbance of the birds. This will entail case by case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Certain times of the year and certain areas will be avoided by spatial and temporal management of development, facilities, and uses.

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed in the RCAs. Coal leasing will be allowed in those portions of RCAs found to be acceptable for further leasing consideration.

Most of the Atlantic Rim RCA is included in the Jep Canyon ACEC and the Shamrock Hills RCA is designated an ACEC. Refer to the ACEC section for discussion of management guidelines for these two RCAs.

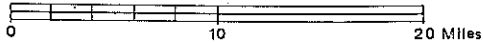
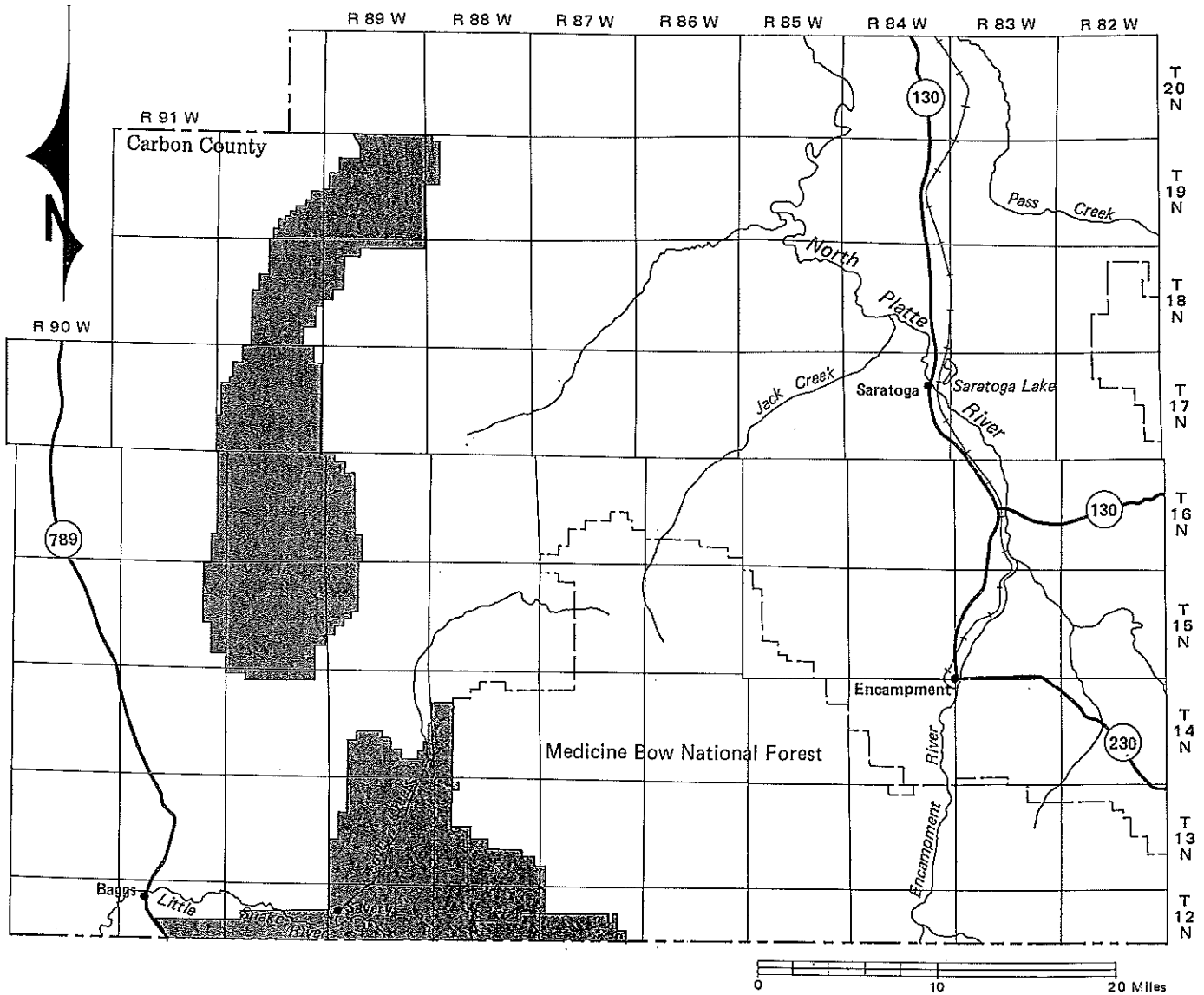
In the remaining RCAs, a notice will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) for disturbances of five acres or less; a plan of operations will be required for disturbances of more than five acres.

Baggs Crucial Elk Winter Range

A portion of the Baggs Crucial Elk Winter Range is included in the Sand Hills and Jep Canyon ACEC. See the ACEC section for details. Objectives and management actions for the remainder of the area follow.

Management Objectives The objectives for the Baggs Crucial Elk Winter Range are to maintain the integrity of crucial winter habitat for elk, to allow development of oil and gas and coal, and to seek the cooperation of owners of adjacent property in management of the habitat (see Map 26).

Management Actions Surface-disturbing activities will be intensively managed to prevent loss of significant elk winter habitat. This will entail case-by-case examination of proposals to determine potential adverse effects and appropriate mitigation to minimize those effects. Certain times of the year and



 Baggs Elk Crucial Winter Range

Map 26
BAGGS ELK CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

certain areas will be avoided by spatial and temporal management of development, facilities, and uses.

Oil and gas leasing will be allowed with application of surface protection measures as described above.

Plans of operations or notices will be required for locatable mineral exploration and development (except casual use) consistent with regulations. A plan of operations will be required for disturbances of more than 5 acres.

The BLM will cooperate with owners of intermingled or adjacent property to manage the habitat, coordinate efforts with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and recommend managing elk population objective levels at a number supportable by the habitat.

White Pelican Island

Management Objective To maintain and enhance nesting habitat for a colony of white pelicans on the 12-acre island.

Management Actions The BLM will develop a cooperative agreement with the WGFD and BuRec for management of the pelican habitat on the island. Management actions will be carried out with the concurrence of BuRec.

The white pelican population will be monitored for disturbance and habitat change.

Other Areas Important to Wildlife

Management Actions Application of the Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities will be used to protect many types of areas of importance to wildlife. In addition, other special management practices will be used as appropriate to focus management emphasis on important resources or to minimize potential conflicts.

When considering needs for protective measures, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) will be consulted concerning proposals involving surface disturbance and other disruptive activities in these important habitats. The BLM will also coordinate and cooperate with intermingled and adjacent landowners in managing these habitats.

Crucial winter ranges for all big game species will be protected. Surface disturbance will be mitigated to restore or replace habitat. In addition, previously depleted habitat in crucial big game winter ranges will be reclaimed to the extent possible.

In areas where crucial winter ranges for more than one species of big game overlap (approximately 122,880 acres of BLM administered public land), habitat quality will be maintained (see Map 27). Previously depleted habitat in these areas will be reclaimed to the extent possible. In addition, the BLM will employ spatial and temporal management of development, facilities, and users to avoid activity in sensitive areas or during sensitive times of the year.

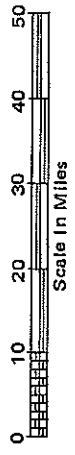
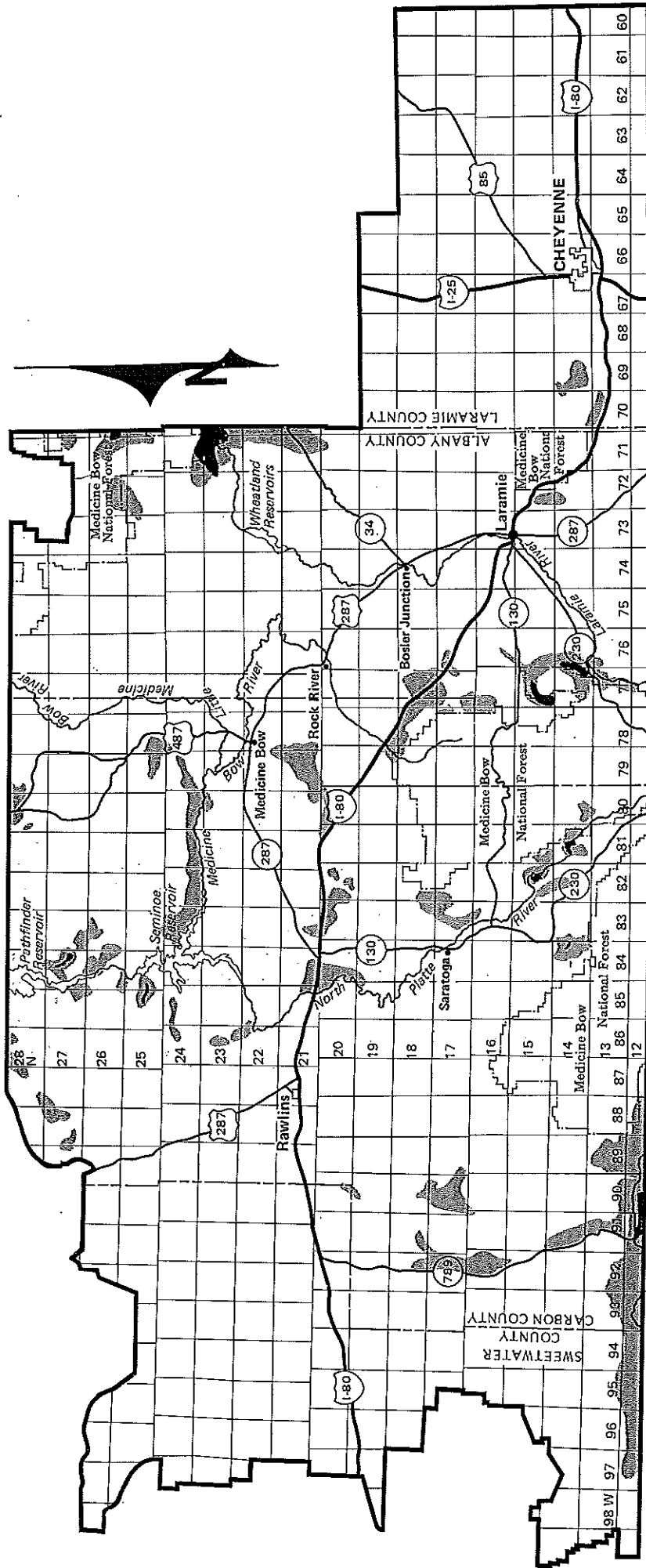
Sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse strutting/dancing grounds and nesting habitat will be protected.

The BLM will consider consolidating public land to obtain important wildlife habitat areas such as (a) perennial streams, lakes and wetlands (USFWS also has identified this as a priority); (b) raptor concentration areas; (c) crucial winter range for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, or antelope; and (d) other high priority habitats.

Other

In addition to the actions outlined above, some management actions that will benefit wildlife are included in the discussions on management of ACECs, fire, forests, livestock grazing, coal, oil and gas, locatable minerals, and recreation.

As proposals are submitted, animal damage control (ADC) activities in the planning area, including the use of poisons that are lethal to vertebrate animals, will be considered. These activities are subject to established ADC procedures and policies, including NEPA requirements, as outlined in the national and state level memoranda of understanding between BLM and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), BLM manual 6830, and other directives. These activities are also subject to the Rawlins BLM District ADC Management Plan which is maintained current and consistent with those procedures and policies.



- Overlapping Crucial Winter Ranges (3 species)
- Overlapping Crucial Winter Ranges (2 species)

MAP 27
IDENTIFYING CRUCIAL WINTER RANGES
 Great Divide Resource Management Plan
 November, 1990

APPENDIX I

WYOMING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) STANDARD MITIGATION GUIDELINES FOR SURFACE-DISTURBING ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

The "Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations" were developed in 1986. During their implementation, it was recognized that various land uses, other than those related to oil and gas exploration and development, should be subject to similar kinds of environmental protection requirements. Using the Wyoming BLM standard oil and gas lease stipulations as a basis, development of the "Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Measures for Surface-Disturbing Activities" began.

The term "guidelines" better describes the intent and use of these mitigation standards than the terms "stipulations" or "measures." These guidelines are primarily for the purpose of attaining statewide consistency in how requirements are determined for avoiding and mitigating environmental impacts and resource and land use conflicts. Consistency in this sense does not mean that identical requirements would be applied for all similar types of land use activities that may cause similar types of impacts. Nor does it mean that the requirements or guidelines for a single land use activity would be identical in all areas.

There are two ways the standard mitigation guidelines are used in the resource management plan/environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS) process: (1) as part of the planning criteria in developing the RMP alternatives, and (2) in the analytical processes of both developing the alternatives and analyzing the impacts of the alternatives. In the first case, an assumption is made that any one or more of the standard mitigations will be appropriately included as conditions of relevant actions being proposed or considered in each alternative. In the second case, the standard mitigations are used (1) to develop a baseline for measuring and comparing impacts among the alternatives; (2) to identify other actions and alternatives that should be considered, and (3) to help determine whether more stringent or less stringent mitigations should be considered.

Some of the seasonal restrictions in the standard oil and gas lease stipulations contain the statement, "This limitation does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells." This statement was included because the stipulations were developed specifically for application to oil and gas leases at

the time of issuance, not for activities associated with producing wells. At lease issuance, the only action that can be generally contemplated is the possibility that exploratory drilling may occur somewhere on the lease area. Unfortunately, the provision has been interpreted by some people to mean that the seasonal restriction disappears at the operational stage (i.e., if a producing well is attained). It must be understood that at both the oil and gas exploration stage and the operation or development stages, additional site-specific environmental analyses are conducted and any needed restrictions or mitigations identified become part of the operational or development plan. For example, wells may continue to produce, but related activity may be limited. Thus, it is possible for such seasonal restrictions to continue in effect and be applicable to maintenance and operation of producing wells, if supported by the environmental analyses.

The RMP/EIS does not decide or dictate the exact wording or inclusion of these guidelines. Rather, the standard guidelines are used in the RMP/EIS process as a tool to help develop the RMP alternatives and to provide a baseline for comparative impact analysis in arriving at RMP decisions. These guidelines will be used in the same manner in analyzing activity plans and other site-specific proposals. These guidelines and their wording are matters of policy. As such, specific wording is subject to change primarily through administrative review, not through the RMP/EIS process. Any further changes that may be made in the continuing refinement of these guidelines and any development of program-specific standard stipulations will be handled in another forum, including appropriate public involvement and input.

PURPOSE

The purposes of the "Standard Mitigation Guidelines" are (1) to reserve, for the BLM, the right to modify the operations of all surface and other human presence disturbance activities as part of the statutory requirements for environmental protection, and (2) to inform a potential lessee, permittee, or operator of the requirements that must be met when using BLM-administered public lands. These guide-

APPENDIX I

lines have been written in a format that will allow for (1) their direct use as stipulations, and (2) the addition of specific or specialized mitigation following the submission of a detailed plan of development or other project proposal, and an environmental analysis.

Those resource activities or programs currently without a standardized set of permit or operation stipulations can use the mitigation guidelines as stipulations or as conditions of approval, or as a baseline for developing specific stipulations for a given activity or program.

Because use of the mitigation guidelines was integrated into the RMP/EIS process and will be integrated into the site-specific environmental analysis process, the application of stipulations or mitigation requirements derived through the guidelines will provide more consistency with planning decisions and plan implementation than has occurred in the past. Application of the standard mitigation guidelines to all surface and other human presence disturbance activities concerning BLM-administered public lands and resources will provide more uniformity in mitigation than has occurred in the past.

STANDARD MITIGATION GUIDELINES

1. Surface Disturbance Mitigation Guideline

Surface disturbance will be prohibited in any of the following areas or conditions. Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

- a. Slopes in excess of 25 percent.
- b. Within important scenic areas (Class I and II Visual Resource Management Areas).
- c. Within 500 feet of surface water and/or riparian areas.
- d. Within either one-quarter mile or the visual horizon (whichever is closer) of historic trails.
- e. Construction with frozen material or during periods when the soil material is saturated or when watershed damage is likely to occur.

Guidance

The intent of the **SURFACE DISTURBANCE MITIGATION GUIDELINE** is to inform interested parties

(potential lessees, permittees, or operators) that when one or more of the five (1a through 1e) conditions exist, surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited unless or until a permittee or his designated representative and the surface management agency (SMA) arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts. This negotiation will occur prior to development.

Specific criteria (e.g., 500 feet from water) have been established based upon the best information available. However, such items as geographical areas and seasons must be delineated at the field level.

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (e.g., activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill) and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

2. Wildlife Mitigation Guideline

- a. To protect important big game winter habitat, activities or surface use will not be allowed from November 15 to April 30 within certain areas encompassed by the authorization. The same criteria apply to defined big game birthing areas from May 1 to June 30.

Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

- b. To protect important raptor and/or sage and sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat, activities or surface use will not be allowed from February 1 to July 31 within certain areas encompassed by the authorization. The same criteria apply to defined raptor and game bird winter concentration areas from November 15 to April 30.

Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

- c. No activities or surface use will be allowed on that portion of the authorization area identified

APPENDIX I

within (*legal description*) for the purpose of protecting (e.g., sage/sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds, and/or other species/activities) habitat.

Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

- d. Portions of the authorized use area legally described as (*legal description*), are known or suspected to be essential habitat for (*name*) which is a threatened or endangered species. Prior to conducting any onsite activities, the lessee/permittee will be required to conduct inventories or studies in accordance with BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines to verify the presence or absence of this species. In the event that (*name*) occurrence is identified, the lessee/permittee will be required to modify operational plans to include the protection requirements of this species and its habitat (e.g., *seasonal use restrictions, occupancy limitations, facility design modifications*).

Guidance

The **WILDLIFE MITIGATION GUIDELINE** is intended to provide two basic types of protection: seasonal restriction (2a and 2b) and prohibition of activities or surface use (2c). Item 2d is specific to situations involving threatened or endangered species. Legal descriptions will ultimately be required and should be measurable and legally definable. There are no minimum subdivision requirements at this time. The area delineated can and should be defined as necessary, based upon current biological data, prior to the time of processing an application and issuing the use authorization. The legal description must eventually become a part of the condition for approval of the permit, plan of development, and/or other use authorization.

The seasonal restriction section identifies three example groups of species and delineates three similar time frame restrictions. The big game species including elk, moose, deer, antelope, and bighorn sheep, all require protection of crucial winter range between November 15 and April 30. Elk and bighorn sheep also require protection from disturbance from May 1, to June 30, when they typically occupy distinct calving and lambing areas. Raptors include eagles, accipiters, falcons (peregrine, prairie, and merlin), buteos (ferruginous and Swainson's hawks), osprey, and burrowing owls. The raptors and sage and sharp-tailed grouse require nesting protection between February 1 and July 31. The same birds often require protection from disturbance from November 15 through April 30 while they occupy winter concentration areas.

Item 2c, the prohibition of activity or surface use, is intended for protection of specific wildlife habitat areas or values within the use area that cannot be protected by using seasonal restrictions. These areas or values must be factors that limit life-cycle activities (e.g., *sage grouse strutting grounds, known threatened and endangered species habitat*).

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (e.g., activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill) and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

3. Cultural Resource Mitigation Guideline

When a proposed discretionary land use has potential for affecting the characteristics which qualify a cultural property for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), mitigation will be considered. In accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, procedures specified in 36 CFR 800 will be used in consultation with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in arriving at determinations regarding the need and type of mitigation to be required.

Guidance

The preferred strategy for treating potential adverse effects on cultural properties is "avoidance." If avoidance involves project relocation, the new project area may also require cultural resource inventory. If avoidance is imprudent or unfeasible, appropriate mitigation may include excavation (data recovery), stabilization, monitoring, protection barriers and signs, or other physical and administrative measures.

Reports documenting results of cultural resource inventory, evaluation, and the establishment of mitigation alternatives (if necessary) shall be written according to standards contained in BLM Manuals, the cultural resource permit stipulations, and in other policy issued by the BLM. These reports must provide sufficient information for Section 106 consultation. Reports shall be reviewed for adequacy by the appropriate BLM cultural resource specialist. If cultural properties on, or eligible for, the National Register are located within these areas of potential impact and cannot be avoided, the Authorized Officer shall begin the Section 106 consultation process in accordance with the procedures contained in 36 CFR 800.

APPENDIX I

Mitigation measures shall be implemented according to the mitigation plan approved by the BLM Authorized Officer. Such plans are usually prepared by the land use applicant according to BLM specifications. Mitigation plans will be reviewed as part of Section 106 consultation for National Register eligible or listed properties. The extent and nature of recommended mitigation shall be commensurate with the significance of the cultural resource involved and the anticipated extent of damage. Reasonable costs for mitigation will be borne by the land use applicant. Mitigation must be cost effective and realistic. It must consider project requirements and limitations, input from concerned parties, and be BLM approved or BLM formulated.

Mitigation of paleontological and natural history sites will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Factors such as site significance, economics, safety, and project urgency must be taken into account when making a decision to mitigate. Authority to protect (through mitigation) such values is provided for in FLPMA, Section 102(a)(8). When avoidance is not possible, appropriate mitigation may include excavation (data recovery), stabilization, monitoring, protection barriers and signs, or other physical and administrative protection measures.

4. Special Resource Mitigation Guideline

To protect (*resource value*), activities or surface use will not be allowed (i.e., *within a specific distance of the resource value or between date to date*) in (*legal description*).

Application of this limitation to operation and maintenance of a developed project must be based on environmental analysis of the operational or production aspects.

Exception, waiver, or modification of this limitation in any year may be approved in writing, including documented supporting analysis, by the Authorized Officer.

Example Resource Categories (*Select or identify category and specific resource value*):

- a. Recreation areas.
- b. Special natural history or paleontological features.
- c. Special management areas.
- d. Sections of major rivers.
- e. Prior existing rights-of-way.
- f. Occupied dwellings.
- g. Other (specify).

Guidance

The **SPECIAL RESOURCE MITIGATION GUIDELINE** is intended for use only in site-specific situations where one of the first three general mitigation guidelines will not adequately address the concern. The resource value, location, and specific restrictions must be clearly identified. A detailed plan addressing specific mitigation and special restrictions will be required prior to disturbance or development and will become a condition for approval of the permit, plan of development, or other use authorization.

Exception, waiver, or modification of requirements developed from this guideline must be based upon environmental analysis of proposals (e.g., activity plans, plans of development, plans of operation, applications for permit to drill) and, if necessary, must allow for other mitigation to be applied on a site-specific basis.

5. No Surface Occupancy Guideline

No Surface Occupancy will be allowed on the following described lands (*legal description*) because of (*resource value*).

Example Resource Categories (*Select or identify category and specific resource value*):

- a. Recreation Areas (e.g., campgrounds, historic trails, national monuments).
- b. Major reservoirs/dams.
- c. Special management area (e.g., areas of critical environmental concern, known threatened or endangered species habitat, wild and scenic rivers).
- d. Other (specify).

Guidance

The **NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO) MITIGATION GUIDELINE** is intended for use only when other mitigation is determined insufficient to adequately protect the public interest and is the only alternative to "no development" or "no leasing." The legal description and resource value of concern must be identified and be tied to an NSO land use planning decision.

Waiver of, or exception(s) to, the NSO requirement will be subject to the same test used to initially justify its imposition. If, upon evaluation of a site-specific proposal, it is found that less restrictive mitigation would adequately protect the public interest

APPENDIX I

or value of concern, then a waiver or exception to the NSO requirement is possible. The record must show that because conditions or uses have changed, less restrictive requirements will protect the public interest. An environmental analysis must be conducted and documented (e.g., environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, etc., as necessary) in order to provide the basis for a waiver or exception to an NSO planning decision. Modification of the NSO requirement will pertain only to refinement or correction of the location(s) to which it applied. If the waiver, exception, or modification is found to be consistent with the intent of the planning decision, it may be granted. If found inconsistent with the intent of the planning decision, a plan amendment would be required before the waiver, exception, or modification could be granted.

When considering the "no development" or "no leasing" option, a rigorous test must be met and fully documented in the record. This test must be based upon stringent standards described in the land use planning document. Since rejection of all development rights is more severe than the most restrictive mitigation requirement, the record must show that consideration was given to development subject to reasonable mitigation, including "no surface occupancy." The record must also show that other mitigation was determined to be insufficient to adequately protect the public interest. A "no development" or "no leasing" decision should not be made solely because it appears that conventional methods of development would be unfeasible, especially where an NSO restriction may be acceptable to a potential permittee. In such cases, the potential permittee should have the opportunity to decide whether or not to go ahead with the proposal (or accept the use authorization), recognizing that an NSO restriction is involved.