



## 4.0 LARAMIE RANGE FRONT



### 4.1 Area Description

Number of Points: 197

Number of Structures: 30

BLM Ownership: 7,883 acres (67 parcels; 40, 80, 120, 160 acres in size)

The Laramie Range fuel management area consists of scattered BLM lands (i.e., 40-, 80-, 120-, 160-acre blocks) extending approximately five miles out from the National Forest boundary (south of Glenrock, west of Wheatland). Much of the land is steep, full of boulders, and consists of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) intermixed with big sagebrush and grass.



## 4.2 Boxelder

There are three blocks (i.e., 80, 120, 200 acres) located 20 miles south of Glenrock. They are located on rock outcrops forested with ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The forest around point 186 is lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) with mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) recently infesting the western forest edge. All three blocks border Forest Service land.

### 4.2.1 Management Recommendations

1. *Land Consolidation.* Consolidation of ownership might be a possible option. Points 181-185 could be swapped for the hills adjacent to point 180, creating a 280-acre block. As it presently stands, the meadow where 183A is located could be expanded, encroaching conifers removed, and prescribed fire used to reduce the brush and encourage the grass.
2. *Aspen and Meadow Regeneration/Timber Sale.* The aspen stand where 183B is located could be treated and the encroaching ponderosa pine be removed via a timber sale. Grazing may need to be limited in aspen regeneration areas to achieve adequate establishment. The meadow where point 182 is located can be restored and expanded by removing the pine and using prescribed fire to burn the slash.
3. *Manage Mountain Pine Beetle Areas.* Measures to control the mountain pine beetle population in the lodgepole pine, near point 186, should begin immediately.

## 4.3 Powderhorn Ranch

The sample area bordering the ranch headquarters to the northwest, west, and southwest, constitutes the area of greatest concern. Irrigated alfalfa fields surround the ranch headquarters and most of the residences have irrigated lawns. The northwest (190-200) is a rock outcrop, which extends for two miles running southwest to northeast. The ranch borders a grass flat running up to the rocks where scattered Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopularum*) and ponderosa pine exist. Grass meadows extend into the rock



near the northwest border. The west and southwest are predominately grass slopes with a few aspen stands on the east slopes (207 and 214).

### **4.3.1 Management Recommendations**

1. *Grazing.* Increased grazing will reduce fine fuels and modify fire spread near the headquarters. Maintain irrigation to provide a buffer to structures. Implement defensible space practices where needed.

## **4.4 LaPrele - Point of Rocks**

These are two isolated 80-acre blocks southeast of LaPrele Road. Points 217 and 218 have heavy fuel loads. A cabin is just east of these points. Points 219 and 220 are in light to moderate fuels.

### **4.4.1 Management Recommendations**

1. *Land Consolidation/Prescribed Fire.* Consolidate BLM ownership to 160 acres on Point of Rocks. Reduce the fuel load at point 217 and 218 using piling and prescribed fire.

## **4.5 Fetterman Road**

School Section Mountain is 280 acres of aspen, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir on a rough, rocky outcrop. Point 228 is aspen, point 229 is grass, and points 230 and 231 are conifer on moderate slopes.

### **4.5.1 Management Recommendations**

1. *Land Consolidation/Aspen regeneration.* Consolidate the outer holdings (228-231), including School Section Mountain, into one holding. Increase aspen stands using prescribe fire.



## **4.6 Wagonhound Gorge**

Wagonhound Gorge is 800 acres of dramatic rock uplift divided north and south by Wagonhound Creek cutting through the middle, west to east concluding at Wagonhound Falls. Sheer cliffs fall into the gorge to the south and north. The north side concludes in a ponderosa pine – sagebrush park. Douglas fir and ponderosa pine occupy every available piece of soil on the north slope of the gorge, poking up amid the boulders. Access into the gorge is difficult. A ponderosa park approaches from the west, changing to dense Douglas fir at higher elevations.

### **4.6.1 Management Recommendations**

1. *Land Consolidation/Prescribed Fire.* Consolidate ownership into one block; add point 251 and point 267 to Wagonhound Gorge. Use prescribed fire and/or wildland fire for resource benefit to encourage early seral stage species. Another alternative is to swap 251 and 267 to the Muddy Wagonhound blocks (252-254). Manage mountain pine beetle dead and down areas with pile burning.

## **4.7 Wagonhound Ranch**

West LaBonte Canyon (261-266,268) is a steep canyon bordered by Douglas fir and ponderosa pine forest along the rim. The Wagonhound Ranch and Middleton Ranch border north and south. A mountain pine beetle infestation has created a 3-acre fuel buildup adjacent to point 266. The Stove Creek area to the north is a mixture of open slope and ponderosa pine.

### **4.7.1 Management Recommendations**

1. *Land Consolidation/Prescribed Fire.* On the south rim, west of LaBonte Canyon, manage mountain pine beetle infested trees. East of the gorge, pile burn mountain pine beetle fuels. Land swap 255 to West LaBonte Canyon and 256 to the Stove Creek block.



## **4.8 Horseshoe Creek**

Most of the ownership is in rough grass-shrub dry draws south of Horseshoe Creek. A few ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain Juniper are scattered on the north slopes. There are pockets of true mountain mahogany. Cattle grazing seems to be keeping the light fuels low.

### **4.8.1 Management Recommendations**

1. *Grazing/Land Consolidation.* Continue grazing management to reduce the light fuels; consolidate ownership where possible.

## **4.9 Cottonwood Creek**

The ownership is, scattered around the Twin Pines Ranch, is mostly open grassland with a concentration north and east of the Twin Pines headquarters continuing east to the Von Ferelle Ranch. Points 308-347 are in steep broken drainages with vegetation ranging from shrub to pines. The Harris Park Road borders to the south and west.

### **4.9.1 Management Recommendations**

1. *Land Consolidation.* Consolidate ownership in Twin pines and Von Ferelle Ranches. Land swap 292-295 to block up with 296-7 at Point of Rocks. Trade 327-329 and 333 to add to 320-6. Trade 334 to the 335-47 block. Trade 317 and 348-9 to the same block. Trade 354-364 to Sheep Mountain (350-353).

## **4.10 Laramie River**

Most of ownership is either shortgrass prairie or rocky pine breaks. Several large fires have occurred on National Forest land to the west and south over the last decade in the beetle-killed forest. There are 7 isolated 40 acre blocks and three 80 acre blocks. The other concentrations vary from 160 to 240 acres in size. The majority of the BLM holdings are surrounded by the Lazy Lee Ranch (True Ranch).



### 4.10.1 Management Recommendations

1. *Land Consolidation.* Trade 365-7 and 374-381 to a single block with 368-373. The 300 acre block is rough, rocky and difficult to manage, but would be one contiguous section of land. Also block-up ownership at Van Ortwick Road.

### 4.11 Laramie Range Front Hazard Assessment Rating

<u>Total Rating Score</u>	<u>Hazard Level</u>	<u>Amount (%)</u>
1-14	Low	8
15-21	Moderate	67
21-28	High	25
29-35	Extreme	0