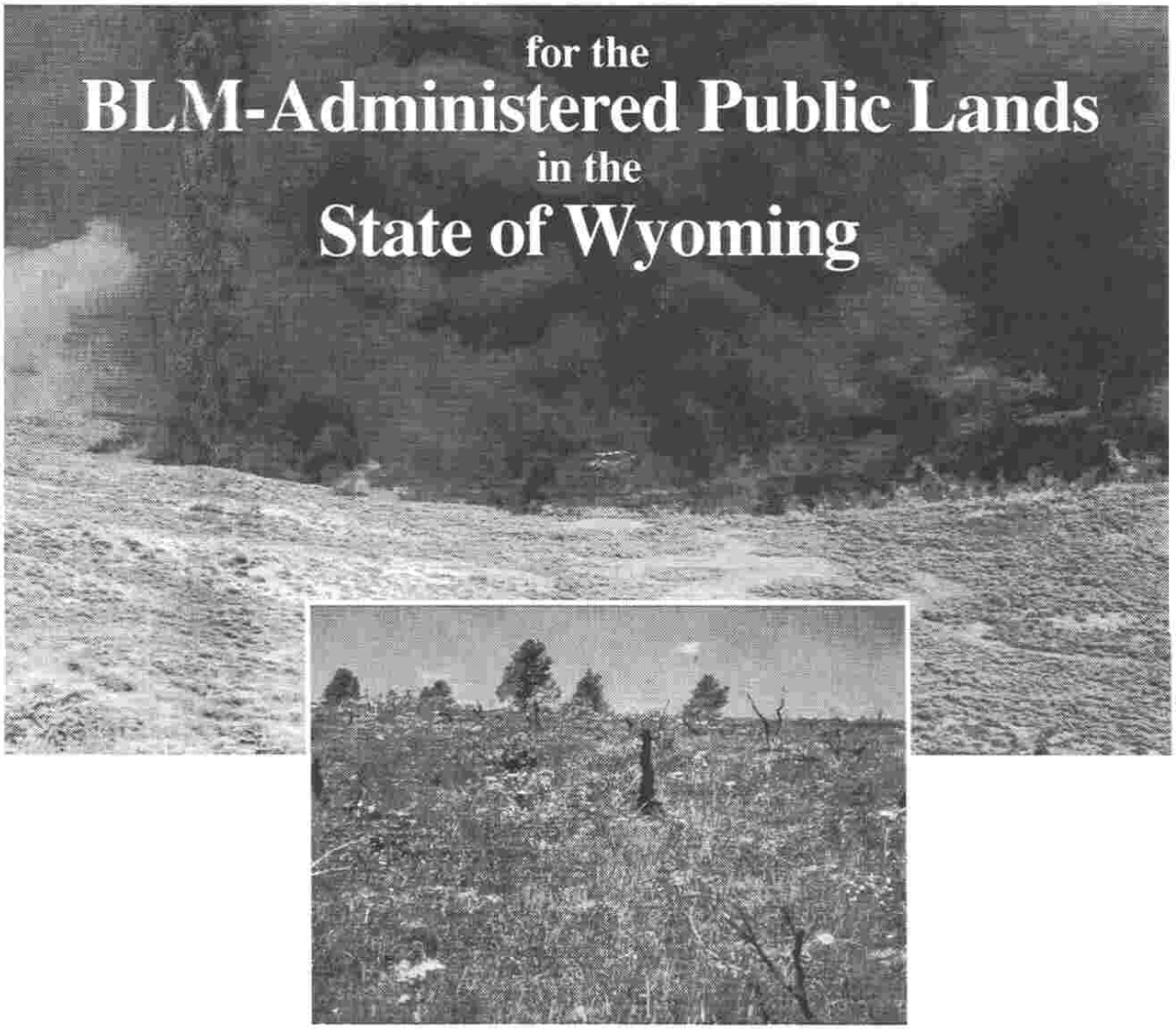
Fire Management
Implementation Plan



July 1998

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WYOMING STATE OFFICE

ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION (AD) DOCUMENTATION FOR THE WYOMING BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed action is to approve the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire management plan to be submitted for implementation and inclusion in the Bureau-wide fire management plan.

PART II: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

The proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan was prepared in compliance and in accordance with the national guidance provided in BLM Manual Handbook H-9211-1, "Fire Management Activity Plan Procedures", and Information Bulletin No. 97-2031, "Guidance for Phase One of the Fire Management Planning Process" (2/5/97).

A review of all BLM land use plans in Wyoming was conducted to determine whether or not the proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan is in conformance with the land use plans (per 43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3). It was found that the proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan is in conformance and does not conflict with any BLM land use plans in Wyoming. Actually, the proposed fire management plan was basically derived from the fire management planning and management decisions contained in the land use plans. The specific plans involved are: Newcastle Management Framework Plan (MFP-1982) and the imminent Newcastle Resource Management Plan (RMP), Grass Creek MFP (1983) and the imminent Grass Creek RMP, Buffalo RMP (1985), Platte River RMP (1985), Kemmerer RMP (1986), Lander RMP (1987), Pinedale RMP (1988), Washakie RMP (1988), Cody RMP (1990), Great Divide RMP (1990), and Green River RMP (1997).

The planning objective and management action decisions in the BLM Resource Management Plans or Management Framework Plans (land use plans) in Wyoming provide for cost effective protection of life, property, and resource values from wildfire and to use prescribed fire to achieve multiple use management goals. As necessary, maintenance actions will be completed to incorporate new fire terminology in the older RMPs. No needs for amending any of the land use plans were identified. Minor maintenance needs for the land use plans may be identified in the future, as implementation of the Wyoming Fire Management Plan progresses. Since the Grass Creek and Newcastle RMPs are imminent and the new fire terminology has been incorporated into the RMP development process for those projects, the Grass Creek and Newcastle MFPs will not be maintained.

I certify that he proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (per 43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

/s/ Renee Dana

Reviewer (Renee' Dana, Resource Advisor - for Kemmerer, Pinedale, Green River RMPs)

/s/ Robert B Ross

Reviewer (Bob Ross, Resource Advisor - for Cody, Washakie, proposed Grass Creek RMPs, Grass Creek MFP)

/s/ Glen Nebeker

Reviewer (Glen Nebeker, Resource Advisor - for Buffalo, Platte River, proposed Newcastle RMPs, Newcastle MFP)

/s/

Reviewer (McWhirter, Resource Advisor - for Lander, Great Divide RMPs)

/s/ Joseph Patti Jr.

Reviewer (Joe Patti, Field Planning Coordinator - for Wyoming State Office)

PART III: NEPA REVIEW

The environmental impact analyses conducted and documented in the environmental impact statements (EISs) for the above mentioned land use plans were reviewed and were found to be appropriate and adequate for making the fire management planning and management decisions contained in the land use plans. The specific EISs involved are: Platte River RMP EIS (1984), Buffalo RMP EIS (1985), Kemmerer RMP EIS (1985), Lander RMP EIS (1986), Washakie RMP EIS (1987), Pinedale RMP EIS (1987), Cody RMP EIS (1988), Medicine Bow/Divide (Great Divide) RMP EIS (1988), Green River RMP EIS, (1996), Grass Creek RMP EIS (1996), Newcastle RMP DEIS (1998).

The proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan is an action representative of the third tier of the BLM planning process (i.e., the activity or implementation planning tier) and was developed within the parameters and provisions of the fire management planning and management decisions contained in the above mentioned land use plans. While the Newcastle and Grass Creek "MFP" fire management decisions are not supported by environmental analyses, they are imminently to be replaced by "RMPs" which are supported by environmental analyses. The EISs for those imminent RMPs are also appropriate and adequate for the proposed fire management decisions in those on-going planning efforts. The Newcastle and Grass Creek portions of the proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan are in accordance with those proposed RMP decisions and will be assured to conform with the final decisions.

Approval of the proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan is an implementing action of decisions that have already been supported by the appropriate environmental analyses and documentation in the above mentioned EISs. Also, further site-specific environmental

analyses will be conducted and documented for any prescribed burning project proposals before they are implemented.

Criteria for and Findings of the NEPA review

1. The proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan (the proposed action) is a feature of, or essentially the same as, the collective alternatives selected and analyzed in the existing documents.

2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in each of the existing documents.

3. There has been no significant change in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action.

4. The methodology/analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action.

5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different than those identified in the existing documents.

6. The proposed action would not change the previous analyses of cumulative impacts.

7. Public involvement in the previous analyses provides appropriate coverage for the proposed action. Public involvement was also conducted during development of the proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan and further public involvement will be conducted in the development of site-specific prescribed burning proposals before they are approved.

Findings: Upon review, I find that all of the above criteria are applicable to approval of the proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan.

/s/ Renée Dana
Reviewer (Renee' Dana, Resource Advisor - for Kemmerer, Pinedale, Green River RMPs)

/s/ Robert B. Ross
Reviewer (Bob Ross, Resource Advisor - for Cody, Washakie, proposed Grass Creek RMPs, Grass Creek MFP)

/s/ Glen Nebeker
Reviewer (Glen Nebeker, Resource Advisor - for Buffalo, Platte River, proposed Newcastle RMPs, Newcastle MFP)

/s/ McWhirter
Reviewer (McWhirter, Resource Advisor - for Lander, Great Divide RMPs)

/s/ Joseph Patti Jr
Reviewer (Joe Patti, Field Planning Coordinator - for Wyoming State Office)

Remarks: The proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan is a part of implementing the existing BLM land use plan decisions for the BLM-administered public lands in Wyoming and is collectively addressed in the alternatives and impact analyses in the EISs for the RMPs.

PART IV: DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan is in conformance with the approved BLM land use plans in Wyoming and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to approve and implement the Wyoming BLM Fire Management Plan, as described in the copy attached.

State Director: Alan L Kesterke Date: 7/27/98

for Alan R. Pierson

FIRE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE BLM-ADMINISTERED PUBLIC LANDS IN THE STATE OF WYOMING

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
in coordination with the
Casper Field Office, the
Rawlins Field Office, the
Rock Springs Field Office, and the
Worland Field Office

July 1998

ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	area of critical environmental concern
AMR	appropriate management response
BLM	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
BOR	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
RMEF	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
RMP	resource management plan
VRM	visual resource management
WGFD	State of Wyoming, Game and Fish Department
WSA	wilderness study areas

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FIRE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FOR THE
BLM-ADMINISTERED PUBLIC LANDS
IN THE
STATE OF WYOMING

INTRODUCTION

A Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review was completed in December 1995 by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture with assistance from other federal departments, agencies, and partners. This review affirmed that public and firefighter safety continue to be the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) top fire management priorities. The review placed the second highest priority on protecting natural resources and property, while recognizing fire's essential role in nature for restoring and maintaining the health of the public lands.

As a result of this national review and its recommendations, a statewide effort to review fire management and suppression activities on BLM-administered public lands in Wyoming was initiated. This involved a review of the eleven BLM land use plans in Wyoming. Those plans are:

Buffalo Resource Management Plan (RMP)
Cody RMP
Grass Creek RMP
Great Divide RMP
Green River RMP
Kemmerer RMP
Lander RMP
Newcastle Management Framework Plan
Pinedale RMP
Platte River RMP
Washakie RMP.

This review of the land use plans included identification of management strategies that would achieve desired resource conditions, and reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires through management of fuels, in addition to identifying any new fire management prescriptions. After careful review, the land use plans were found to be in conformance with the fire management policy and it was determined that no new fire management prescriptions were needed. Some land use plans would require minor maintenance, or clarification, to incorporate new terminology related to the fire management policy.

The planning review addresses fire management and suppression decisions on BLM-administered public land surface in Wyoming. These decisions do not cover fire management or suppression on state or private land, or on lands administered by other federal agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation and the Forest Service.

The BLM-administered public lands covered by this review comprise about 17.5 million acres. These lands will be described as "public lands" throughout this planning review document. Other terminology is defined in the Glossary. In particular, the definitions for wildfire, wildland fire, and prescribed fire, which occur early in this document, should be reviewed. These terms have specific meanings identified by the federal wildland fire management policy which may differ from some definitions used in the past.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

With scoping letters and media releases starting in July 1996, and a *Federal Register* notice dated April 23, 1997, the BLM requested public participation in reviewing its fire management and suppression activities on public lands in Wyoming.

Specific public participation activities included one-on-one meetings with interested parties, open houses, field trips, and meetings with other governmental agencies such as the Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and county commissions.

The purposes of these public participation activities were to identify fire management objectives and strategies to achieve desired resource management objectives stated in BLM land-use

plans; improve fire management coordination with other federal and state agencies, local governments, and Indian tribes; reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires through the management of fuels; improve communication to promote fire line safety; and achieve a better understanding of fire's role in the natural environment. During the planning review the BLM has also attempted to gather information on public health and safety, smoke management, public perceptions regarding fire, and economic considerations.

FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR BLM-ADMINISTERED PUBLIC LANDS IN WYOMING

GENERAL

Wildland and prescribed fire would be used to achieve resource objectives identified in land use plans and implementation plans to reduce dangerous accumulations of fuels.

Fire management agreements among the BLM, other federal agencies, the counties, the state of Wyoming, and other cooperators would be updated and maintained as necessary.
In general, the use of heavy equipment for fire management would be minimized on all public lands in Wyoming. Vehicle tracks, fire lines, and emergency access routes would be rehabilitated to prevent continued use.

The BLM will promote public education regarding fire management, including restrictions on the use of fire on public land.

The BLM policy requires suppression of trespass fires and compensation for all suppression costs. Trespass fires are unauthorized human-caused fires on public lands.

Wildland and prescribed fires would be managed in all vegetation types to maintain or improve biological diversity and the health of the public lands. In particular, plant species and age class diversity would be a priority.

Burned areas would be monitored for the control of noxious weeds. Vegetation treatments and other follow-up management actions, as needed, would be used to prevent the spread of weeds.

The accomplishment of land use and resource management objectives would be tracked through the BLM's Geographic Information System.

In the Pinedale planning area, vegetation treatments, including the use of prescribed fire, would be applied to no more than 20 percent of the area within 2 miles of active sage grouse leks, during a 10-year period.

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

As defined by policy, wildfires are unwanted natural- or human-caused fires and therefore will be suppressed. The following are examples of resources or areas that would be protected from wildfire.

- communities;
- campgrounds and other developed recreational areas;
- rock art, cultural sites, and historic structures;
- commercial timber where hazardous fuels exist;
- oil and gas fields and related facilities;
- utility and road rights-of-way;
- lands with intermingled federal, state, and private ownership where there are currently no agreements for using wildland fire as a resource management tool; and
- other areas as identified through continued public involvement in this fire management planning effort.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

The BLM in Wyoming will emphasize an appropriate management response" (AMR) to naturally-caused wildland fires based on a consideration of firefighter and public safety, anticipated management costs, resource values at risk, resource benefits, threats to private property, opportunities for reducing hazardous fuels, and political and social concerns.

Appropriate management response would involve a wide range of fire management options. These might include confining or containing a wildland fire so it stays within a predetermined boundary, or aggressively and quickly suppressing the fire.

On all BLM-administered lands in Wyoming, wildland fire would be managed to improve natural resources.

To reduce wildland fire management costs and increase resource benefits, fires would be allowed to burn up to natural fuel breaks where and when feasible.

Minimal impact suppression techniques and restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment would be applied in wilderness study areas (WSAs) and in sensitive areas identified elsewhere in this document. Fire retardant drops generally would be prohibited or restricted within 200 feet of water and in the vicinity of significant cultural resources.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

On all public lands in Wyoming, prescribed fire would be used to improve natural resource conditions and reduce hazardous fuels where management objectives have not been met by wildland fire or other vegetation treatments.

Prescribed fires would also be used to create fuel breaks and reduce hazardous fuels, especially in the early spring and late fall when vegetation is dormant and there is higher ground moisture.

Prescribed fire would be used in combination with all other vegetation treatments, as appropriate, including manual, mechanical, biological, and chemical methods.

A naturally-caused fire occurring during favorable conditions in an area with a prescribed fire plan would be treated as a prescribed fire.

A general objective for fire treatments would be to remove excessive brush or woodland canopy in mosaic patterns. The percentage of brush or canopy removed would depend on the resource management objectives for the area which may include wildlife habitat needs, forage production for livestock, and watershed improvement.

Management objectives for the juniper and limber pine woodlands would be to promote age class diversity and reduce woodland invasion into more productive grasslands and commercial forests.

FIRE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Fire management objectives and strategies were identified for 58 geographical areas on public lands in Wyoming. (See attached maps.) These areas were based on broad factors like fire frequency, elevation, and vegetation.

The following descriptions may vary from area to area in the information provided and in the level of detail of that information. The areas also show considerable variations in size. These differences can be related to vegetation types, administrative boundaries, landownership patterns, variations in specificity among the eleven resource management plans, and whether or not more detailed activity or implementation plans have been developed.

Area 1: Central Bighorn Basin

The resource management objectives for this broad area of saltbush and sagebrush is to maintain plant community composition and maintain or improve watershed conditions. Low frequency fires are desired to promote plant species and age class diversity. Emphasis would be placed on suppressing wildland fires in cottonwood riparian areas.

Full suppression would be practiced on most fires in the central Bighorn Basin. Most are human-caused (trespass) fires near agricultural and riparian areas. Generally, fire occurrence is low. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed to achieve resource management objectives, keep suppression costs at a minimum, and protect private property and improvements. Several oil fields in this area would need protection from fire.

Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in the Bobcat Draw Badlands, Sheep Mountain, Red Butte, and McCullough Peaks WSAs and in the vicinity of the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite.

Prescribed fire opportunities are limited to small shrub-dominated riparian areas and some isolated areas of dense sagebrush. One of the primary concerns with using fire in the central Bighorn Basin is that the smoke can easily reach local communities.

In the central Bighorn Basin the desired burn acreage in sagebrush is from 1,500 to 2,500 per decade under any fire intensity level. It is anticipated that naturally-caused wildland fires in sagebrush generally would be confined or contained to less than 100 acres each. In riparian areas, naturally-caused wildland fires would be

confined or contained to less than 10 acres under moderate to high fire intensity levels.

Fire, mechanical, and chemical treatments would be used to produce mosaic patterns in about 2,000 acres of sagebrush per decade. The purpose would be to restore herbaceous vegetation, promote age-class diversity, and maintain adequate cover for sage grouse, mule deer, antelope, and other wildlife.

About 200 acres per decade would be treated in riparian areas to restore herbaceous vegetation and promote desirable shrubs.

Area 2: Southern Bighorn Basin

The resource management objective for this area, which contains extensive tracts of cheatgrass and Japanese brome, is to prevent the spread of these undesirable annual grasses, and to maintain or promote sagebrush vegetative communities. Historically, fire size has been small in this area. However, fire size and occurrence appear to be increasing as cheatgrass and Japanese brome increase. In 1996, approximately 78,000 acres of sagebrush were burned by wildland fires in this area.

Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in the Cedar Mountain and

Honeycombs WSAs and in or near the Castle Gardens Campground.

Prescribed fire opportunities are few, being limited to small burns during the spring to control cheatgrass and a few burns in areas of dense sagebrush. An important safety concern in this area is the likelihood of fast-moving cheatgrass and sagebrush fires during the summer.

In the southern Bighorn Basin the desired burn acreage in sagebrush is 500 to 1,000 per decade, primarily in the spring and fall, and under moderate fire intensity levels.

High-intensity wildland fires during hot summer weather (usually in July and August) promote the increase of cheatgrass and Japanese brome. Therefore, wildland fires during this period should be confined or contained to less than 100 acres, by receiving full suppression. The desired burn acreage in juniper and limber pine is 500 to 1,000 per decade. Any wildland fires in these woodlands, which would result in moderate to high intensity-level fires, would be confined or contained to 100 acres.

About 1,000 acres of cheatgrass would be treated per decade by prescribed burning, mechanical, and chemical methods. Prescribed fires would be limited to the Spring.

Area 3: Northern Absaroka Mountains

The resource management objective for this area is to maintain healthy forests and rangelands and to reduce the encroachment of juniper and limber pine. Emphasis would be placed on maintaining commercial timber on Rattlesnake Mountain. Fires in this area are highly visible to tourists on their way to Yellowstone Park. Therefore, effective smoke management and education efforts concerning fire's role in nature are important.

Generally, the BLM would aggressively respond to wildland fires in this area. An appropriate management response would be determined after the fire is assessed. The primary safety concerns for fire control are steep, rocky slopes making access and working conditions difficult and dangerous. Fire and fuels management are important issues along the interface between urban and wildland areas (urban interface), particularly where dense fuels exist.

Fire occurrence has been moderate in this area. However, large fires on Rattlesnake Mountain during the 1960s and early 1970s created a heightened awareness of fire among the citizens of Cody. Both Rattlesnake Mountain and Sheep Mountain are highly visible from the city of Cody and the North Fork of the Shoshone River, a major travel route to Yellowstone National Park.

In Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush communities of this area, desired burn acreage is from 2,000 to 4,000 per decade, under low to moderate fire intensity levels. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be confined or contained to less than 40 acres under moderate to high fire intensity levels.

In juniper and limber pine communities, the desired burn acreage is from 2,000 to 3,000 per decade. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be confined or contained to less than 40 acres under high fire intensity levels.

About 7,000 acres of mixed conifer occur on public land in the northern Absaroka Mountains. The desired burn acreage is 10 to 50 per decade, under low to moderate fire intensity levels. Since 1963, about 6,000 acres of lodgepole pine and spruce have burned on Rattlesnake Mountain. Each naturally-caused wildland fire would be confined or contained to less than 10 acres, under moderate or high fire intensity levels.

Opportunities for the use of prescribed fire in over-mature and declining spruce-fir stands is limited to creating fuel breaks, reducing hazardous fuels, and burning logging slash. About 3,000 acres of juniper and limber pine would be treated to reduce woodland invasion into sagebrush and grass parks and to eliminate fuel hazards near urban areas. Prescribed burns are currently planned for 1,000 acres of sagebrush and juniper and limber pine woodlands. Other treatment methods would affect about 4,000 acres of sagebrush.

Area 4: Southern Bighorn Mountains

The resource management objective is to restore ponderosa pine stands to a healthy condition and maintain or improve habitat diversity in sagebrush and juniper vegetative communities. Aspen and mixed conifer types would be maintained or improved. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response. Roads and natural barriers would be used for control lines as much as possible. In this area emphasis is placed on protecting summer cabins and areas of urban interface.

Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in the Alkali Creek, Medicine Lodge, and Trapper Creek WSAs and in the Spanish Point Karst Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Noxious weeds exist locally in the southern Bighorn Mountains and would be monitored in burn areas. Prescribed burns would be focused in juniper and limber pine encroachment areas. Efforts to reduce fuels would be concentrated in ponderosa pine stands to restore a low intensity, high frequency fire regime. The primary safety concerns for fire control are steep, rocky canyons making access and working conditions difficult and dangerous. Smoke is a concern near towns such as Ten Sleep and Hyattville and in the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area to the east.

Fire occurrence is moderate throughout this management area, with the highest density of wildland fires located in juniper and ponderosa pine communities.

In areas dominated by Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush, the desired burn acreage is 6,000 to 10,000 per decade. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be confined or contained to less than 100 acres, under high fire intensity levels. During the last decade, approximately 2,100 acres of sagebrush have burned.

In areas of juniper and limber pine, the desired burn acreage is 5,000 to 8,000 per decade. Each naturally-caused wildland fire would be confined or contained to less than 100 acres, under high fire intensity levels. Wildland fire suppression efforts would take maximum advantage of natural barriers and fuel breaks to reduce hazards to personnel and equipment. Much of the juniper and limber pine is located in steep, rocky canyons where access and working conditions are difficult and dangerous.

In ponderosa pine, the desired burn acreage is about 2,800 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 10 acres, under moderate to high fire intensity levels. As in areas of juniper and limber pine, steep rocky canyons and poor accessibility are safety concerns. The desired burn acreage in mixed conifer communities is about 500 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 10 acres, under high fire intensity levels.

There is considerable potential for managing fuels throughout this area. Approximately 7,600 acres have been prescribed burned during the past decade. Prescribed burns are currently planned for 2,200 acres annually in sagebrush and juniper communities. The desired burn acreage is 13,500 to 21,200 per decade, however significant limiting factors of topography, landownership pattern, wildlife habitat, and livestock grazing affect the feasibility of these treatments.

Objectives are to treat 8,000 acres of sagebrush, 7,000 acres of juniper, and 2,000 acres of ponderosa pine per decade. Treatment efforts would focus on reduction of juniper invasion into ponderosa pine and sagebrush and grass communities. Fire, timber harvests, and mechanical and chemical treatments would be used to maintain or increase the relatively limited

areas dominated by ponderosa pine. Treatments would also be used to reduce hazardous fuels and improve diversity in sagebrush throughout the mixed conifer areas. Fire would be used to promote uneven-aged timber stands and to reduce disease.

Area 5: Southern Absaroka Mountains

The resource management objectives are to restore aspen stands which are dying of old age, improve the health of diseased and bug-infested conifer forests, and reduce the amount of juniper and limber pine invasion into sagebrush communities and riparian. areas. Emphasis would be placed on avoiding the loss of commercial timber and improving big game winter range. Fuels have built up in timber because of insect damage and past fire suppression.

Wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response. Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in the Owl Creek WSA-and in the Carter Mountain ACEC.

Extensive use of prescribed fire would be made to improve big game habitat, reduce hazardous fuels, restore aspen stands, and limit the encroachment of sagebrush and juniper. A primary concern is the need to protect summer cabins from wildland fire.

Historically, fire occurrence has been low and only small acreages have burned. Precipitation accompanies most storms in this area, limiting the spread of lightning-caused fires.

In areas dominated by Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush, the desired burn acreage is 7,000 to 10,000 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires -to 100 acres, under high fire intensity levels.

In juniper and limber pine communities, the desired burn acreage is 5,000 to 8,000 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 100 acres, under high fire intensity levels.

In areas of mixed conifer and aspen, the desired burn acreage is 800 to 1,000 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 20 acres, under high fire intensity levels.

Approximately 10,600 acres of sagebrush, juniper ' and limber pine have been burned with prescribed fire during the past decade. Prescribed burns are currently planned for 1,700 additional acres. The desired burn acreage is 13,000 to 19,000 per decade. Objectives are to treat 10,000 acres of sagebrush, 7,000 acres of juniper and limber pine, and 500 acres of mixed conifer and aspen. Most vegetation treatments would be done to reduce juniper and limber pine invasion into sagebrush and riparian areas, and for reduction of hazardous fuels caused by pine beetle infestations. Along with fire, timber harvests, and mechanical and chemical treatments would be used to rejuvenate aspen stands.

Area 6: Northern Bighorn Mountains

The resource management objective is to restore plant diversity in the juniper and sagebrush vegetative communities. Emphasis would be on protecting cultural resources, cave and karst features in the Little Mountain ACEC, and the Five Springs Falls Campground and ACEC. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response.

Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in the Little Mountain ACEC. The primary safety concerns for fire control are steep, rocky slopes making some wildland fires difficult and dangerous to access.

Historical fire occurrence and the acreages burned have been low in the northern Bighorn Mountains.

In areas dominated by Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush, the desired burn acreage is 2,000 to 5,000 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 100 acres, under moderate fire intensity levels.

In juniper and limber pine communities, the desired burn acreage is 500 to 1,000 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 100 acres, under high fire intensity levels.

Approximately 4,900 acres of sagebrush and juniper have been prescribed burned during the past 10 years. Objectives are to treat 4,000 acres of sagebrush and 1,000 acres of juniper and limber pine per decade. Vegetation treatments consisting of prescribed burns, and mechanical or chemical methods, would be used to restore herbaceous

vegetation in sagebrush communities, and to remove encroaching juniper. These same treatments would be used to create mosaics and diversity in established juniper woodlands.

Area 7: Bridger Mountains

The resource management objective is to sustain the productivity and diversity of juniper and sagebrush vegetative communities. Emphasis would be placed on protecting private property and cultural resources. Historical fire occurrence and acreages burned have been very low in the Bridger Mountain area. The Hot Springs County fire district does most of the initial attack because of the large amount of private land in this area. Therefore, BLM's efforts are largely that of providing suppression assistance. Generally, the BLM would aggressively respond to wildland fires in this area. An appropriate management response would be determined after the fire is assessed. Fire management concerns relate to smoke settling into Thermopolis and outlying communities and restricted access resulting from locked gates.

The use of prescribed fire would be limited to small areas of sagebrush and juniper. The BLM would coordinate with adjacent nonfederal landowners for mutually beneficial prescribed fires and broadcast burning.

In areas dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, the desired burn acreage is 2,000 to 4,000 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 100 acres, under high fire intensity levels.

In juniper and limber pine vegetative communities, the desired burn acreage is 1,500 to 2,000 per decade. The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 100 acres, under high fire intensity levels.

Few opportunities exist for BLM-initiated prescribed burning because of landownership patterns and low fuel densities. Vegetation treatment objectives, to be accomplished as opportunities arise, are to burn 1,000 acres of sagebrush and 500 acres of juniper.

Area 8: Woods Landing, Jelm, and Sheep Mountains

The resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of upland shrub, woodland, and timber–are to increase browse and forage for big game and livestock, reduce sagebrush encroachment, and stimulate aspen regeneration.

Landownership is intermingled in this area; about 50 percent is public land. There are many structures and facilities associated with ranches and summer cabins in the area. Therefore, wildland fires would be fully suppressed, although no heavy equipment would be used on the initial attack.

Fire suppression is difficult in some places because of locked gates and steep slopes. A protection exchange agreement with the Medicine Bow National Forest and an annual operating plan with Albany County have been established for fire suppression. The BLM would attempt to contain each wildland fire to less than 5 acres at least 90 percent of the time. Smoke management is important because of the Jelm Mountain observatory.

Fire frequency has been low, averaging less than two fires per township, with most fires being contained within one burning period.

The desired burn acreage is about 50 to 100 per decade in woodland and timber vegetative communities. On these public lands, opportunities for reducing hazardous fuels include slash burning adjacent to the national forest. Approximately 2,000 acres are proposed for prescribed burns per decade in all vegetative communities.

Area 9: Encampment Canyon Wilderness Study Area

The resource management objective for this area of upland shrub and timber is to reduce sagebrush and pine encroachment into other vegetative communities and to stimulate aspen regeneration. This area abuts a national forest wilderness area, is a heavy recreational use area, and includes a BLM-administered recreation site and many private cabins.

This area would be subject to full suppression of wildland fires, pursuant to a protection exchange agreement with the Forest Service. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be required. Access is generally limited to foot or horseback. The BLM would attempt to contain each wildland fire to less than 5 acres at least 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is low (less than two fires per township) and many are single-tree fires from lightening strikes. The desired burn acreage is about 600 per decade. Less than 200 acres are proposed for prescribed fires, some burns being planned to improve bighorn sheep habitat.

Area 10: Seminoe and Shirley Mountains Area

The resource management objective for BLM-administered public lands near Seminoe and Pathfinder reservoirs, characterized by upland shrub and sand dunes, is to use fire to increase forage for big game and livestock. The resource management objective for timber and woodland vegetation communities, comprising important wildlife habitat in the Shirley Mountain and Bennett Peak areas, is to use prescribed fire and timber harvesting to reduce disease and insect infestations and promote healthy timber regeneration. This is especially important in elk winter and calving ranges on Shirley Mountain.

On public lands near Seminoe and Pathfinder reservoirs full suppression would be used, consistent with county assistance agreements and agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), where BOR-withdrawn lands are involved. No heavy equipment would be allowed on initial attack because of steep slopes and fragile, sandy soils.

Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in the Bennett Peak WSA. Initial attack by the BLM is essential in timber communities on Shirley Mountain because the fire suppression capabilities of local firefighting forces could be quickly exceeded. Further, there are some areas with steep slopes and. limited access. The BLM would attempt to contain each wildland fire to 5 acres or less at least 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is low in most of the area near Seminoe and Pathfinder reservoirs. Along travel routes and in high recreation use areas most fires are human-caused.

Fire frequency is high in the Bennett Peak WSA (greater than six fires per township) and moderate on Shirley Mountain (with three to five fires per township). Most fires have been small, less than 3 acres, and are caused by lightening strikes.

The opportunity for using prescribed fire near Seminoe and Pathfinder reservoirs is limited because of heavy recreational use. The opportunity for using prescribed fire in the Bennett Peak WSA is limited to about 250 to 500 acres per decade. However, in the vicinity of Shirley Mountain, there is considerable potential for using prescribed fire to improve watershed condition, livestock forage, and wildlife habitat, and for hazardous fuels reduction.

The desired burn acreage is about 1,200 per decade. A maximum of 1,000 acres is proposed for prescribed burns per decade.

Area 11: Platte Valley and Baggs Big Game Crucial Winter Range

The resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of shrub, upland shrub, and woodland vegetative communities–are to increase browse and provide thermal hiding cover for mule deer and elk, enhance forage for livestock use, create mixed-age stands of sagebrush and upland shrub, and reduce juniper and sagebrush encroachment into other vegetative communities.

In the Platte Valley, BLM would practice full suppression with no heavy equipment on initial attack. This is because of intermingled landownership and is pursuant to a protection exchange agreement with the Medicine Bow National Forest. About 75 percent of the fires in the Platte Valley are human-caused. Naturally-caused wildland fires in the Baggs crucial winter range would be managed under an appropriate management response. However, full suppression would be practiced in juniper woodland crucial winter habitat areas along the Colorado-Wyoming state line. The BLM would attempt to contain each wildland fire to less than 10 acres 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is low in the Platte Valley to moderate along the national forest boundary. In the Baggs area, fire frequency is also low and most fires do not exceed 10 acres. One exception is the juniper woodland along the Colorado–Wyoming state line where fire frequency is moderate to high.

The desired burn acreage is about 50,000 per decade to enhance wildlife habitat. Most of this will be accomplished with prescribed burns. Many shared-cost projects are under development. Partnerships would be pursued with the Wyoming

Game and Fish Department (WGFD), the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), grazing lessees, and others. Shrub communities in the Baggs big game crucial winter range are the areas of heaviest prescribed fire use in the Rawlins District.

Other fuel management opportunities include the use of herbicides for sagebrush thinning. These treatments are preferred over prescribed burning because of the potential spread of rabbitbrush after fire. Herbicide treatments are planned to involve about 1,000 acres per year.

Area 12: Checkerboard Public Lands in Carbon and Sweetwater Counties; Intermingled Public Lands in Albany and Laramie Counties

The resource management objectives for these areas–consisting of grassland, shrub, and woodland vegetation–are to maintain or improve watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and livestock forage. Other objectives are to reduce juniper, limber pine, and sagebrush encroachment and to stimulate aspen regeneration.

These areas would be subject to full suppression of wildland fires because the public lands are scattered or intermingled with nonfederal lands. Suppression would be coordinated through assistance agreements with the counties and other federal agencies. Public lands range from less than 10 percent of the surface in Laramie County and the eastern two-thirds of Albany County to approximately 50 percent in Carbon and Sweetwater counties. These areas also support considerable oil and gas development and a major travel route. Periodically, smoke along highways could be a risk to public safety. The BLM, through the counties, other federal agencies, and volunteer fire departments would attempt to contain each wildland fire to 5 acres or less at least 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency in Albany and Laramie counties is uncertain since most wildland fires are suppressed by the counties. Fire frequency in Carbon and Sweetwater counties varies from moderate to high along travel routes and near oil and gas fields and is low elsewhere.

The desired burn acreage is about 60,000 per decade. Most of this would be accomplished with prescribed burns.

Area 13: Public Lands Near Medicine Bow National Forest (Laramie Peak Area)

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of upland shrub, woodland, and timber vegetative communities– are to reduce juniper, limber pine, and sagebrush encroachment, stimulate aspen regeneration, and improve bighorn sheep habitat.

Wildland fires on public lands would be subject to full suppression until hazardous fuels from snags and insect infestations have been reduced through prescribed fire, mechanical, and other methods. At that time, an appropriate management response to naturally-caused wildland fires would be instigated. Full suppression would be practiced in high visibility and high-use recreation areas and on steep slopes that are limited to foot access. The BLM would attempt to contain wildland fire to less than 5 acres 90 percent of the time until hazardous fuels are reduced.

Fire frequency is high. The desired burn acreage is about 5,000 per decade. Most of this would be accomplished with prescribed burns.

Area 14: Shirley Basin

The resource management objectives for this area of sagebrush and grasslands are to maintain or improve plant community composition, watershed conditions, forage for livestock grazing, and wildlife habitat.

Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response. Management costs would be reduced by monitoring wildland fires (rather than using full suppression) in areas of consolidated public lands. There would be no restrictions on initial attack (such as restrictions on the use of heavy equipment) in areas where landownership is intermingled. Fire management agreements with private landowners would be pursued. The BLM would attempt to contain each wildland fire to 10 acres 90 percent of the time. {NOTE: How does AMR equate to a 10-acre containment? Seems inconsistent here.]

Fire frequency is low in most of the area. The desired burn acreage is about 10,000 per decade. Most of this would be accomplished with prescribed burns.

Area 15: Ferris Mountains, Pedro Mountains, and Sentinel Rocks

The primary resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of shrub, upland shrub, woodland, and timber vegetative communities–are to provide greater visual security for bighorn sheep by creating more openings in the vegetation, increase browse, reduce limber pine encroachment, and improve timber age class diversity. Other objectives are to restore 50 to 75 percent of the public lands in the Ferris Mountains to a mid-seral plant succession stage and to increase browse and provide thermal and hiding cover for mule deer.

Most naturally-caused wildland fires in the Ferris Mountains would receive full suppression, although the use of heavy equipment would be restricted or prohibited. However, fires of less than 100 acres, under low or medium burning conditions, would be monitored rather than being suppressed to reduce costs and achieve resource management objectives. Firefighter safety is a concern in the Ferris Mountains because of steep slopes and moderate to high level of hazardous fuels in lodgepole pine.

In other vegetative communities naturally-caused wildland fires would be subject to appropriate management response to create mixed-age stands of shrub and upland shrub communities. The BLM would attempt to confine each wildland fire to 100 acres 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is low in the Ferris Mountains and is moderate in the Pedro Mountains and Sentinel Rocks. The desired burn acreage is about 15,000 per decade. Most of this would be accomplished with prescribed burns.

Area 16: Kinney Rim, Adobe Town, and Skull Creek; and Area 17: Great Divide Basin

The resource management objective for these low precipitation, sparsely vegetated areas is to maintain or improve plant community composition while promoting plant species and age class diversity.

Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response. Management costs would be reduced by monitoring wildland fires (rather than using full suppression) for fires under 1,000 acres. Wildland fire suppression actions would be limited because land status is predominantly public, topography is rolling to flat, access is good, and there are no firefighter safety concerns. The BLM would attempt to contain wildland fires to less than 1,000 acres 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is low. The desired burn acreage is about 2,000 per decade for each area. Most of this would be accomplished with prescribed burns.

Area 18: Green and Crooks Mountains

The resource management objectives for these areas of woodlands and timber are to protect important wildlife habitat including elk winter and calving areas, commercial timber, and public and private property. Fire management in this area is affected by a BLM-administered campground, heavy recreational use, summer cabins, and ranch facilities. There is also a build-up of hazardous fuels from fallen snags and trees killed by insect infestations. Fuels management opportunities include slash burning, light broadcast burning to stop pine invasion into meadows, and timber harvesting.

Full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced, with heavy equipment restricted or prohibited on initial attack. The BLM would attempt to contain wildland fires to less than 5 acres at least 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is moderate to high with at least half of the fires being human-caused. The desired burn acreage is about 350 to 500 per decade; 300 acres would be accomplished with prescribed burns.

Area 19: Rattlesnake Hills

The resource management objective for this area of upland shrub and woodlands is to improve elk and deer habitat while limiting surface disturbance related to fire management.

Full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced because of developed private property, especially around Garfield Peak and Goat Mountain, and because there are some areas of hazardous fuels. The use of heavy equipment would be restricted or prohibited on initial attack. A primary safety concern for fire control is difficult access because of steep slopes and locked gates. Some areas have foot access only. The BLM

would attempt to contain each wildland fire to less than 10 acres.

Fire frequency is moderate to high and with at least 50 percent being human-caused. The desired burn acreage 350 to 750 per decade; approximately 250 acres are proposed for prescribed burns.

Area 20: South Pass, Red Canyon, and Lander Slope

The resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of upland shrub, woodland, and timber vegetative communities– are to enhance elk, moose, and deer habitat, and protect important fisheries.

The BLM would aggressively respond to wildland fires in this area. Full suppression would be practiced with heavy equipment restricted or prohibited on initial attack. These are sensitive areas because of fragile soils, steep slopes, and historic landmarks. Other fire management concerns are intermingled landownership, limited access, and private cabins,

Fire frequency is moderate to high. The desired burn acreage is about 1,000 per decade. Most of this would be accomplished prescribed burns. Some hazardous fuels would be reduced by thinning timber stands of over-mature or bug-killed pine, in harvest areas of approximately 100 acres each.

Area 21: Dubois and Upper Wind River

The resource management objective for this area of upland shrub and timber is to enhance wildlife habitat,* protect public and private property, and prevent erosion of fragile soils. This area supports nationally important wildlife habitat, consisting of bighorn sheep and elk winter ranges.

Full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced through a protection exchange agreement with the Shoshone National Forest. The purpose would be to reduce hazardous fuels caused by insect infestation and overmature timber. There are also many structures on adjacent private lands and high recreational activity.

Fire frequency is low and the fires have been small. There is potential, however, for catastrophic fires because hazardous fuels have built up. The desired burn acreage is about 500 per decade. Most of this would be accomplished with prescribed burns. The reduction of hazardous fuels by fire would require highly controlled circumstances.

Area 22: Sweetwater Valley, Beaver Rim, and Gas Hills

The resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of exposed rock and soil, shrub, and scattered woodlands–are to maintain or improve plant community composition and watershed conditions, promote plant species and age class diversity, and improve mule deer habitat. Management costs would be reduced by monitoring small wildland fires, rather than using full suppression.

Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response in most areas. Generally, fires are small and isolated because of a lack of continuous fuels. In the Sweetwater Rocks WSA, restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed.
Firefighting would be restricted to daylight operations because of firefighter safety concerns, steep slopes, and difficult access. In areas of intermingled landownership, full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced if the fires are threatening private lands and no agreements are in place with the landowners allowing for less aggressive attack. The BLM would attempt to contain each wildland fire to 10 acres 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is low. In the Beaver Rim and Gas Hills areas, most fires do not exceed 50 acres and are suppressed by Fremont County.

The desired burn acreage is about 5,000 per decade. Most of this would be accomplished with prescribed burns, particularly in the Beaver Rim and Gas Hills areas.

Area 23: Copper Mountain

The resource management objective for this area of juniper and limber pine woodlands is to protect public and private property and big game crucial winter range.

Full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced. The use of heavy equipment would be restricted or prohibited because of intermingled

landownership and steep slopes creating difficult access. (Many private lands are developed with cabins and homesites.) The BLM would attempt to confine wildland fires to 1 acre at least 90 percent of the time.

Fire frequency is low with most fires being lightening-caused and small, however, the potential for larger fires exists. The desired burn acreage is 300 per decade. Approximately 200 acres are proposed for prescribed burns.

Area 24: Whiskey Mountain

The resource management objectives for this area of upland shrub and high-elevation timber are to protect and enhance wildlife habitat and protect public and private property, while preventing erosion of unstable and fragile soils. Timber communities have high levels of hazardous fuels because of insect infestations and overmature timber.

Wildland fires would be subject to full suppression. No heavy equipment would be used on initial attack because of fragile soils, the importance of this area for recreation, and to protect important wildlife habitat, particularly for bighorn sheep. Most of the area is public land with rolling or steep topography. Many areas are difficult to access, creating concerns for firefighter safety. The BLM would attempt to confine wildland fires to 1 acre at least 90 percent of the time.

Although fire frequency is low and most fires have been limited to single trees or shrubs, the potential for catastrophic fire exists because hazardous fuels have built up in some places. The desired burn acreage is about 250 per decade. Approximately 200 acres are proposed for prescribed burns.

Area 25: Public Lands in Crook Weston, and Niobrara Counties

The majority of the land in these counties is in nonfederal ownership. Where public lands are scattered and isolated, resource management objectives would conform to those of the adjacent nonfederal lands. The vegetation is primarily grass and sagebrush with some noncommercial ponderosa pine. Full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced on public lands. Fires in the area are usually suppressed by . county and volunteer fire departments. The BLM provides resource advisors and suppression assistance pursuant to annual operating plans with the counties. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment would be followed, primarily to avoid damage to nonfederal lands.

Area 26: Black Hills Area

The public lands in the northeast part of the state contain forested and woodland areas, some bordering the Black Hills National Forest-Devils Tower, National Monument is in this area. The vegetation is primarily grass, sagebrush, bur oak, juniper, aspen, and ponderosa pine with five areas supporting commercial timber production.

The resource management objectives on BLM-administered commercial forestlands are to reduce fuel loading, dispose of logging debris, and prepare seedbeds for reforestation. On other public lands in the Black Hills area, resource management objectives conform to those of the adjacent nonfederal lands.

Ponderosa pine is the primary fuel in the commercial forestlands. There are benefits to be derived from wildland and prescribed fires in meeting management objectives for these areas. However, all wildland fires would be suppressed to protect commercial timber and adjacent lands which are not administered by BLM. Prescribed fires would be designed to dispose of logging debris and reduce understory and hazardous fuels.

Fires in the area are usually suppressed by county and volunteer fire departments. The BLM provides resource advisors and suppression assistance pursuant to annual operating plans with the counties. Fire suppression in an area east of Newcastle, which borders the Black Hills National Forest, is subject to a protection agreement with the Forest Service. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment would be followed, primarily to avoid damage to commercial forestlands administered by BLM, and adjacent private, state, national forest, and national monument lands.

Area 27: Whoopup Canyon

The resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, and ponderosa pine–is to protect prehistoric petroglyphs of world class importance. All wildland fires would be suppressed. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment to construct firelines and on the use of chemical and dye retardants would be followed to protect the

petroglyphs. Fuels management projects would be conducted to reduce hazardous fuels near the petroglyphs. Primarily, these projects would be mechanical treatments but may include the use of prescribed fire involving less than 50 acres per decade.

Fires are common in the Whoopup Canyon and general area. Large fires have threatened the canyon and petroglyphs in recent years.

Area 28: Public Lands in Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte Counties

The majority of the land in these counties is i n nonfederal ownership. Where public lands are scattered and isolated, resource management objectives would conform to those of the adjacent nonfederal lands. Vegetation is primarily sagebrush and grass with small areas of upland shrub, woodland, and ponderosa pine. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response unless the fires threaten to burn onto adjacent nonfederal lands. Roads and natural barriers would be used for control lines as much as possible. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment would be followed to avoid damage to the nonfederal lands. Full suppression would be practiced on the Table Mountain and the Springier wildlife management areas in Goshen County, in bald eagle roost areas in Converse and Natrona counties, and in the Goldeneye Recreation Area in Natrona County. In the bald eagle roost areas, cutting of roost trees would be prohibited. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment would be followed on significant segments of the Oregon, Mormon, and Bozeman trails.

Where prescribed fire is used on public lands to manage vegetation, particularly in sagebrush and grassland areas, the purpose would be to improve watershed condition, forage for livestock grazing and wildlife use, and to reduce hazardous fuels.

Area 29: Laramie Range and Rattlesnake Mountains

This area consists of public lands in the Laramie Range and Rattlesnake Mountains, including Casper Mountain, Haystack Mountain, Muddy Mountain, and Pine Mountain in Converse, Natrona, and Platte counties. The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, upland shrub (mountain mahogany), woodland, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and aspen–are to maintain or improve watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, livestock forage, and reduce hazardous fuels. Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response unless the fires threaten to burn onto adjacent nonfederal lands. Roads and natural barriers would be used for control lines as much as possible. Restrictions on some suppression techniques would be followed in areas of bald eagle roosts, primarily the prohibition of cutting roost trees.

In the Rattlesnake Mountains, any wildland fires threatening the cabin sites known as Aspen Highlands would be suppressed.

Prescribed fires would be used primarily for disposing of logging debris and seedbed preparation, and improving wildlife habitat.

Approximately 2,000 acres are proposed for prescribed burns on Haystack Mountain per decade.

Area 30: Jackson Canyon

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, woodland, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine–are to protect a bald eagle winter roosting area, enhance other wildlife habitat, and provide forage for livestock grazing. Natural ly-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response unless the fires threaten to burn onto adjacent nonfederal lands. Roads and natural barriers would be used for control lines as much as possible.

Full suppression would be practiced on public lands on Casper Mountain because of concentration of cabins, residences, recreational areas, and communication sites on intermingled nonfederal lands. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed to avoid damaging steep slopes and nonfederal lands. The cutting of eagle roost trees would be prohibited.

Prescribed fire or mechanical treatments of vegetation would be emphasized.

Area 31: Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Area

This area on Muddy Mountain consists of two campgrounds and an environmental education area with hiking trails. The resource management objectives for this area, which includes a significant number of beetle-killed lodgepole pines, is to use prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and logging debris, and to protect public and private property and recreational opportunities. The area is surrounded by private and state land. Because of high recreational use and intermingled landownership, wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed. Priority would be given to public safety and protecting recreational facilities.

Area 32: Public Lands in Johnson, Sheridan, and Campbell Counties

The majority of the land in these counties is in nonfederal ownership. Where public lands are scattered and isolated, resource management objectives would conform to those of the adjacent nonfederal lands. Wildland and prescribed fires are generally desired where public landownership is relatively consolidated. Resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush and grassland with small areas of woodland and ponderosa pine–are to improve forage for livestock and wildlife and provide for plant species and age class diversity.

Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under a ' n appropriate management response, unless the fires threaten to burn onto adjacent nonfederal lands. Roads and natural barriers would be used for control lines as much as possible.

In the Cantonment Reno historic site, wildland fires would be managed to reduce sagebrush cover and expose land features and artifacts. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed.

The Fortification Creek WSA contains 12,419 acres with vegetation consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, woodland, and ponderosa pine. It is being managed to protect or enhance wilderness values and has a fire management plan in effect which specifies that all fires would be suppressed. Priority would be given to keeping fires from spreading onto adjacent private or state lands. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed.

Prescribed fire would be used in the WSA and adjacent lands, primarily to maintain or improve watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and livestock forage. Approximately 2,000 acres are proposed for prescribed burns per decade.

Area 33: Eastern Bighorn Mountains

The resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, upland shrub (primarily curl-leaf mountain mahogany), woodland, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and aspen–is to maintain or improve watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and forage for grazing.

Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response, using roads and natural barriers for control lines as much as possible, unless the fires threaten to burn onto adjacent nonfederal lands. Full suppression of wildland fires threatening the Buffalo Creek and Grave Spring campgrounds would be practiced.

Prescribed fires would be used for a number of reasons such as disposal of logging debris, reduction of hazardous fuels, and to meet the management objectives mentioned above. Partnerships for the use of prescribed fire would be pursued with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Rocky Mountain. Elk Foundation, grazing lessees, and others.

The North Fork and Gardner Mountain WSAs are located in close proximity to each other in the southern Bighorn Mountains. The North Fork WSA comprises 10,089 acres and the Gardner Mountain WSA, 6,423 acres. Both areas are being managed to protect wilderness values and each has a fire management plan in effect which specifies that all fires would be suppressed. Priority would be given to keeping fires from spreading onto adjacent private or state lands. Restrictions or prohibitions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed.

In the eastern Bighorn Mountains approximately 2,000 acres are proposed for prescribed burns per decade.

Area 34: Northern Campbell County and Bishop Area

The resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, and ponderosa pine–is to manage vegetation for grazing, wildlife habitat, and timber production.

Naturally-caused wildland fires would be managed under an appropriate management response, unless the fires threaten to burn onto adjacent nonfederal lands. Roads and natural barriers would be used for control lines as much as possible.

Area 35: Warren Bridge

The primary resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, aspen, riparian areas, and meadow tundra–is to improve big game winter and transitional ranges, pronghorn antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and sage grouse habitat. Other objectives are to improve forage availability in the uplands to draw livestock use away from riparian areas, sustain aspen communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment, and stimulate aspen regeneration. Emphasis would be placed on protecting private and public property from wildland fire by reducing hazardous fuels in the urban interface (for example, Hoback Ranches and Black Butte Estates) and along national forest boundaries. Post-burn archaeological inventories would be conducted.

There are intermingled private lands in the area. Developed and semideveloped campsites, such as those along the Green River and the Warren Bridge campground would be protected from wildland fire. Wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed within 1 mile of the Franz Elk Feedground operated by the WGFD. Smoke in subdivisions and along U.S. Highway 189-191 may pose public safety hazards.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 400 acres. The desired burned acreage is about 4,000 per decade.

Area 36: Beaver Ridge

The primary resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, aspen, riparian areas, and meadow tundra–is to improve big game winter ranges. Other objectives are to improve livestock forage availability in the uplands and protect private property by reducing hazardous fuels in the urban interface.

Concerns related to wildland fire suppression include intermingled landownership and the urban interface.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 200 acres. The desired burned acreage is about 2,000 per decade.

Area 37: Cora Butte

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, mesic upland shrubs, and riparian areas–are to promote plant species and age class diversity and maintain or improve watershed conditions by using periodic wildland fire and prescribed burning as management tools.

Concerns related to wildland fire suppression include intermingled landownership and some concentrated areas of developed private property. Smoke may pose public safety hazards, for example near communities and subdivisions, and along U.S. Highway 191.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 200 acres. The desired burn acreage is about 1,500 per decade.

Area 38: Pinedale

The primary resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, aspen, and forest-dominated riparian areas–is to improve big game winter and transitional ranges. Other -objectives are to improve livestock forage availability in the uplands and protect public and private property by reducing hazardous fuels in the urban interface and along national forest boundaries.

There is a limited amount of public land in this area, intermingled with developed private property and urban interface. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in the city of Pinedale and surrounding subdivisions and along U.S. Highway 191. An air -quality and acid rain monitoring station (NADP site) east of Fremont Lake would be protected from wildland fire.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 200 acres. The desired burn acreage is about 3,000 per decade and it is anticipated that the majority of this would be accomplished by the use of prescribed fire. A priority area for prescribed burns would be along the national forest boundary.

Area 39: Ryegrass and Soaphole Basin

The primary resource management objective for these areas–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, aspen, and riparian areas–is to improve big game winter and transitional ranges, pronghorn antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and sage grouse habitat. Another objective is to improve livestock forage palatability and availability in upland areas. Native American sensitive sites in the west half of the area need to be protected.

Most of the lands in this area are public with rolling topography and good access for fire management. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in the community of Daniel and along U.S. Highway 189.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 1,500 acres. The desired burn acreage is about 9,000 per decade and the majority would be accomplished with prescribed fire.

Area 40: Mesa

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, and forest-dominated riparian areas–are to maintain or improve sagebrush and grassland plant community composition while using prescribed burns and periodic wildland fires to improve crucial mule deer winter range and sage grouse habitat. The Mocroft Native American sensitive sites in the northeastern portion of the area need to be protected. Wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed in cottonwood stands along the Green and New Fork rivers to protect wildlife habitat, and recreational and scenic values.

Most of the lands in this area are public with rolling topography and good access for fire management. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in the city of Pinedale and surrounding subdivisions and along U.S. Highway 191, and cause visibility problems at the Pinedale Airport. There are also flammable materials at the airport.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 1,000 acres outside of crucial mule deer winter ranges, and about 500 acres within the winter ranges. The desired burn acreage is about 5,800 per decade.

Area 41: Boulder Lake and Big Sandy

The primary resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of Douglas fir, aspen, lodgepole pine, sagebrush, grassland, shrub, forest-dominated riparian areas, exposed rock and soil, and mesic upland shrub communities–are to reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen communities, promote healthy timber regeneration, maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, and protect cultural resources. Other objectives are to protect public and private property by reducing hazardous fuels in the urban interface and along national forest boundaries.

In the Scab Creek WSA and on the Lander Cutoff/Emigrant Trail, -restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed. Fire retardant drops would be prohibited within 200 feet of riparian and wetland areas in the WSA, however, emergency use of helicopters would be acceptable. Wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed within 1 mile of the Fall Creek, Scab Creek, and Muddy Creek elk feedgrounds operated by the WGFD.

This area is primarily timbered, with steep slopes and limited vehicle access. Intermingled private lands and potentially significant historic cabins are other concerns. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in subdivisions and along Wyoming Highway 351.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 650 acres in sagebrush and grassland communities, 400 acres in aspen, and 100 acres in timber (where fuel levels are low) during low to moderate burning conditions. The desired burn acreage is about 5,000 per decade. Prescribed burns could be used to reduce hazardous fuels along the national forest boundary.

Area 42: Bench Corral

The primary resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, shrub-dominated riparian areas,

exposed rock and soil, mixed grass prairie, aspen, limber pine, woodland, and lodgepole pine–is to improve big game winter and transitional ranges, pronghorn antelope spring, summer, and fall range, and sage grouse habitat. Other objectives are to improve livestock forage availability in upland areas, sustain aspen communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment, and stimulate aspen regeneration through the use of f ire.

There is a high potential for significant historic cabins in the west half of this area. Wardell buffalo trap is located in the southeast corner and is a significant Native American site. This area and its interpretive facilities would be protected from wildfire. Wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed within 1 mile of the North Piney and Bench Corral elk feedgrounds operated by the WGFD.

Landownership in this area is primarily public with rolling topography and good access for fire management. Along the Lander Cutoff/Emigrant Trail, restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in the communities of Big Piney and Marbleton, along U.S. Highway 189, and cause visibility problems at the Big Piney/Marbleton Airport. There are also flammable materials at the airport

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 2,000 acres west of U.S. Highway 189 and to 500 acres east of U.S. Highway 189. The desired burn acreage is about 20,000 per decade. Approximately 9,000 acres are proposed for prescribed burns per decade.

Area 43: Deer Hills

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of desert shrub, sagebrush, aspen, shrub-dominated riparian areas, mixed grass prairie, lodgepole pine, and whitebark pine–are to improve big game winter and transitional ranges and sage grouse habitat, and improve livestock forage availability in the uplands.

There are oil and gas facilities in the area which need protection from wildfire and may affect firefighter safety. The topography is rolling and access is good. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in and near the communities of Big Piney and Marbleton and along U.S. Highway 189. Along the Lander Cutoff/Emigrant Trail, restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 1,000 acres outside of crucial mule deer winter ranges, and about 500 acres within the winter ranges. The desired burn acreage is about 4,000 per decade.

Area 44: Desert

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of exposed rock and soil desert shrub, sagebrush, grassland, mixed grass prairie, aspen, shrub-dominated riparian areas, and forest-dominated riparian areas–are to maintain sagebrush and grassland plant community composition and maintain or improve watershed conditions. Prescribed burns and wildland fires would be used to meet the management objectives listed above and to maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage.

The topography is mostly flat, access is good, and landownership is predominantly public. Oil and gas facilities in the area would require protection from wildland fire and may affect firefighter safety. Along the Lander Cutoff/Emigrant Trail, restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed. Wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed in cottonwood stands along the Green and New Fork rivers to protect wildlife habitat, and recreational and scenic values.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to, about 1,200 acres. The desired burn acreage is about 20,000 per decade.

Area 45: LaBarge

The primary resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of exposed rock and soil, sagebrush, grassland, woodland, aspen, forest-dominated riparian areas, whitebark pine, and meadow tundra–are to maintain or improve wildlife habitat and livestock forage, sustain aspen communities by reducing conifer and sagebrush encroachment, and stimulate aspen regeneration through the use of fire. Another objective would be to promote healthy timber regeneration. Emphasis would also be placed on protecting important cultural sites.

There is a high potential for significant historic cabins in this area. Lake Mountain WSA, Rock Creek ACEC, and Beaver Creek ACEC contain crucial Colorado River cutthroat trout habitat. Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in these areas. Similar restrictions would apply along the Lander Cutoff/Emigrant Trail.

Recreational activity in the area is high, especially during hunting season. There is also a significant amount of oil and gas activity and fire management is complicated by intermingled private lands. Smoke may pose public safety hazards in or near Big Piney, Marbleton, Calpet, or LaBarge and along U.S. Highway 189. Wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed in cottonwood stands along the Green River to protect wildlife habitat and recreational and scenic values. Wildland fires would be aggressively suppressed on the Holden Hill and Names Hill cultural sites.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to about 1,200 to 1,500 acres in aspen, sagebrush, and grassland communities outside of crucial mule deer winter ranges, about 500 acres in these same communities within crucial mule deer winter ranges, and about 100 acres in timber. The desired burn acreage is about 27,000 per decade.

Area 46: Big Sandy and Steamboat Mountain

The primary resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of greasewood, desert shrub, sagebrush, riparian, and conifer vegetative communities–are to reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen and mountain shrub communities, promote healthy timber regeneration, and improve habitat for big game and sage grouse. Other objectives are to improve forage for livestock and wild horses and to protect public and private property by reducing hazardous fuels in the urban interface and near BLM-administered recreation areas and range improvements. In portions of the fire management area that are predominantly BLM-administered lands (north of the checkerboard area), wildland and prescribed fire could be used to meet resource management- objectives.

Steamboat Mountain contains unique vegetative communities and high value wildlife habitat. The Steamboat Mountain vegetative communities include associations of sagebrush with Utah snowberry and basin wildrye, bluebunch wheatgrass, and lemon scurf pea. In these communities, the primary resource management objective is to protect wildlife habitat. Generally, wildland fire is not desired in the Steamboat Mountain area, although there may be opportunities for the use of prescribed fire.

These fire management areas contain historic trails, special recreation management areas, and six ACECs: Steamboat Mountain, Natural Corrals, Cedar Canyon, White Mountain Petroglyphs,

Greater Sand Dunes, and the South Pass Historic Landscape. Four WSAs are entirely or partially inside the areas. The WSAs are Whitehorse Creek, Oregon Buttes, Buffalo Hump, and Sand. Dunes. There are also important scenic resources (Class 11 VRM areas).

Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and ,other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in ACECs, WSAs, and along historic trails. Restrictions on the use of chemical and dye. retardants would be followed in the vicinity of petroglyphs.

Fire frequency has been moderate with 27 fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 860 acres.

The BLM would attempt to confine or contain wildland fires to less than 5 acres in the Steamboat Mountain area because of the important wildlife habitat. The use of prescribed fire would be the preferred method to meet resource management objectives.

Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in these fire management areas could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives.

Area 47: Sweetwater

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, riparian, aspen, and conifer vegetative communities–are to protect sensitive resources, improve wildlife habitat and forage for livestock, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen and mountain shrub communities, promote healthy timber regeneration, and protect public and private property by reducing hazardous fuels.

The area contains sensitive resources including two ACECs (one for special status plants and another for the South Pass Historic Landscape), special recreation management areas, and wild and scenic river values. These areas will have site-specific fire management prescriptions based on site-specific analysis. The use of heavy equipment and motorized vehicles for fire management would be restricted or prohibited in sensitive areas. This area borders the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Recreational activity in the area is high and takes place year-round Landownership is intermingled. Some private cabins and ranches are located in the area, along with developed and semi-developed recreation sites, like those along the Sweetwater River. These areas containing public and private property would be protected from wildland fire.

Fire frequency is low to moderate with five fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 26 acres.

The area has a low to moderate fire frequency, but there are opportunities for wildland and prescribed fire to meet resource management objectives. Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in this fire management area could be burned per decade to achieve the objectives.

Area 48: Red Desert

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of greasewood, desert shrub, sagebrush, riparian, and aspen vegetative communities–are to improve wildlife habitat, improve forage for livestock and wild horses, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen and mountain shrub communities, and promote healthy timber regeneration.

The area includes some checkerboard lands, major utilities, oil and gas fields, and a one wild horse herd management area. Five WSAs and one ACEC are entirely or partially in the area. These are Honeycomb Buttes, Oregon Buttes, South Pinnacles, Alkali Basin/East Sand Dunes, and Red Lake WSAs and the Oregon Buttes ACEC. Separate fire management plans may be written for the WSAs. Portions of the ACEC having significant wildlife habitat or cultural values may be protected from wildland fire. Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal impact suppression techniques would be followed in the WSAs and ACEC. Constraints to protect watershed and scenic values would apply too.

Fire frequency is low with two fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 31 acres.

Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in this fire management area could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives. Generally, prescribed fire would be used.

Area 49: Little Mountain

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of desert shrub, sagebrush, riparian, aspen, and conifer vegetative communities–are to improve wildlife habitat, improve forage for livestock and wild horses, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment into aspen and mountain shrub communities, promote healthy timber regeneration, and protect public and private property by reducing hazardous fuels.

This fire management area contains urban interface including the communities of Rock Springs and Green River and their surrounding residential areas, Table Rock, McKinnon, and Lonetree. The area also contains checkerboard lands, major utility rights-of-way, and oil and gas fields. Interstate 80 and U.S. Highways 191, 430, and 530 traverse the area. There are large blocks of BLM-administered lands.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, administered by the Forest Service, borders this fire management area along with the Wasatch-Cache and Ashley National Forests. There are three WSAs within this fire management area. These are Devils Playground/Twin Buttes, Red Creek, and Adobe Town. There are also three ACECs: Pine Springs, Greater Red Creek, and a portion of the Candidate Plant ACEC. The objectives for the Pine Springs ACEC include maintaining or enhancing important cultural, historic, and prehistoric values. Objectives for Greater Red Creek include maintaining or enhancing fragile soils, Colorado River cutthroat trout habitat, and water quality. The objectives for the Candidate Plant ACEC include maintaining or enhancing plant species and their habitats.

Three other special management areas also exist in this area. They are Monument Valley, Pine Mountain, and Sugarloaf Basin. The primary objective for Monument Valley is to protect wildlife, geologic, cultural, watershed, and scientific values. The primary objective for the Pine Mountain and Sugarloaf Basin areas is to improve watershed condition, as well as to provide opportunities for dispersed recreation and protect wildlife habitat.

Much of the timber in the Little Mountain fire management area is located within the Pine Mountain and Sugarloaf Basin management areas. Fire management, including suppression needs and the use of prescribed fire in timber stands, will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The objectives would be to ensure that timber stands are maintained in a healthy condition and the "snow fence" effect created by the timber is preserved.

Recreational use in the area is high. There are also important scenic resources (Class 11 VRM areas) along with petroglyphs, historic trails, and two wild horse herd management areas. Smoke in cities and towns and along major highways may pose public safety hazards.

The area contains portions of the checkerboard land pattern, urban interface, major utility rights-of-way, and oil and gas fields. Full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced. Constraints applied to fire management activities would include watershed constraints and providing protection of conifer stands and ACEC values. Restrictions on the use of heavy equipment and other minimal suppression techniques would be followed in areas such as the Greater Red Creek ACEC, Pine Springs ACEC, candidate plant species sites and ACEC, and the other special management areas including Monument Valley, Pine Mountain, and Sugarloaf Basin, Similar restrictions would apply along historic trails and in the WSAs. Restrictions on the use of chemical and dye retardants would be followed in the vicinity of petroglyphs.

The fire frequency is very high with 234 fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 6,250 acres.

This area has the highest fire frequency in the state and opportunities exist for wildland and prescribed fire to meet resource management objectives. Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in this fire management area could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives.

Area 50: Smiths Fork and Raymond Mountain

The resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, aspen, and conifer vegetative communities–are to improve elk birthing habitat and big game winter and transitional habitat, improve upland forage availability, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment in aspen and mountain shrub communities, and stimulate aspen and mountain shrub regeneration. In the Raymond Mountain WSA and ACEC areas another resource management objective is to enhance the habitat of the Bonneville cutthroat trout.

In the Raymond Mountain area the use of heavy equipment and motorized vehicles for fire management would be restricted or prohibited to preserve wilderness values and trout habitat. A separate fire management plan would be written for this area. Fire management activities adjacent to the Bridger-Teton National Forest would be coordinated with the Forest Service. Recreational use of these areas is high.

Two important areas need protection from wildland fire. These are the Canyon Club, and the ski area and lodge on Pine Creek. Concerns associated with controlling livestock may require burned areas to be fenced, so these areas can recover.

The fire frequency is low to moderate with eight fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 860 acres.

Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in these areas could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives.

Area 51: Hams Fork and Rock Creek

The resource management objectives for these areas–consisting largely of sagebrush with scattered aspen and conifer stands–are to improve elk birthing habitat and big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, improve upland forage availability, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment in aspen and mountain shrub communities, and stimulate aspen and mountain shrub regeneration.

Full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced in areas of intermingled landownership, although some opportunities may exist to use roads and natural barriers for control lines depending on what resources are threatened. In particular, wildland fires would be suppressed in the area east of South Fork Mountain where private lands are being subdivided and developed into cabin sites. Fire management activities near Fossil Butte National Monument would be coordinated with the National Park Service. Fire could be used to meet resource management objectives where public lands predominate.

Fire frequency is moderate with 19 fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 3,300 acres.

Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in this fire management area could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives.

Area 52: Green River and Seedskadee

The resource management objective for these areas–consisting largely of greasewood, sagebrush, grassland, and riparian vegetative communities–is to enhance wildlife winter habitat.

Considerable oil and gas exploration and development takes place adjacent to the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge and there are intermingled private and BLM-administered lands which complicate fire management activities.

Fire frequency is low with only one fire recorded in 10 years. That fire burned less than an acre.

To protect public and private property, full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced in oil and gas fields and in areas of intermingled landownership. The desired burn area is about 5 percent of the public lands per decade in this fire management area.

Area 53: Slate Creek

The resource management objective for this area–consisting largely of greasewood, sagebrush, and grassland–is to enhance wildlife habitat.

Fire frequency is low with only one fire recorded in 10 years. This fire burned less than an acre.

Full suppression would be practiced in this area because of the large amount of oil and gas development. The desired burn area is about 5 percent of the public lands per decade, in this fire management area. Prescribed fire could be used to improve wildlife winter range and sage grouse habitat.

Area 54: Bridger Valley and Granger

The resource management objective for these areas of desert shrub, greasewood, sagebrush, and grassland is to enhance wildlife habitat.

The areas include checkerboard lands, Interstate 80, oil and gas fields, and major utility rights-of-way.

Fire frequency is low to moderate with no fires recorded in the Bridger Valley area in 10 years, and four fires occurring in the Granger area. These fires burned about 800 acres.

Full suppression of wildland fire would be practiced in these areas because of the intermingled landownership pattern and the oil and gas activities. The desired burn area is about 5 percent of the public lands per decade. Prescribed fire could be used to improve wildlife winter range and sage grouse habitat.

Area 55: Bear River Divide

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of greasewood, sagebrush, grassland, aspen, and mountain shrub vegetative communities–are to improve big game winter and transitional habitat, improve sage grouse habitat, improve upland forage availability, reduce conifer and sagebrush encroachment in aspen and mountain shrub communities, and stimulate aspen and mountain shrub regeneration.

Oil and gas development (including releases of sour gas, or H2S) is common throughout the area. The area also includes checkerboard lands, Interstate 80, and major utility rights-of-way. Although full suppression of wildland fire is practiced now, there is potential to work with private landowners to identify areas where wildland and prescribed fire could be managed.

The community of Evanston and its airport are in this area. Visibility around the airport may be affected by smoke, posing safety concerns.

Fire frequency is low to moderate with eight fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 5,700 acres.

Generally, full suppression of wildland fires would be practiced in this area because of the intermingled landownership and large amount of oil and gas development. However, opportunities may exist, especially on the eastern side of the continental divide, to let fires burn to roads and other natural barriers depending on what resources are threatened. In the future, it may be possible to manage some areas under appropriate management response.

Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in this fire management area could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives.

Area 56: Collett Creek and Twin Creek

The resource objectives for these areas–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, aspen, and mountain shrub vegetative communities–are to enhance crucial wildlife winter and transitional habitat, increase forage for livestock, improve watershed condition, and rejuvenate aspen and mountain shrub communities. The Twin Creek area includes a coal mine and a subdivision which would be protected from wildland fire. Wildland and prescribed fire would be used elsewhere to meet resource management objectives.

Fire frequency is low to moderate with three fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 1,640 acres.

Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in this fire management area could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives. Up to 50,000 acres would be treated with prescribed fire by the year 2005.

Area 57: Meeks Cabin

The resource management objectives for this area–consisting largely of sagebrush, grassland, aspen, and conifer vegetative communities–are to enhance wildlife habitat and improve watershed condition.

Fire frequency is low with one fire recorded in 10 years. That fire burned less than an acre.

Generally, wildland fires would be suppressed in this area although. there are areas where wildland fire would be desired to meet resource management objectives. The BLM would manage some natural ly-caused wildland fires subject to appropriate management response. Overall, up to a quarter of the public lands in this fire management area could be burned per decade to achieve resource management objectives.

Area 58: Afton and Evanston

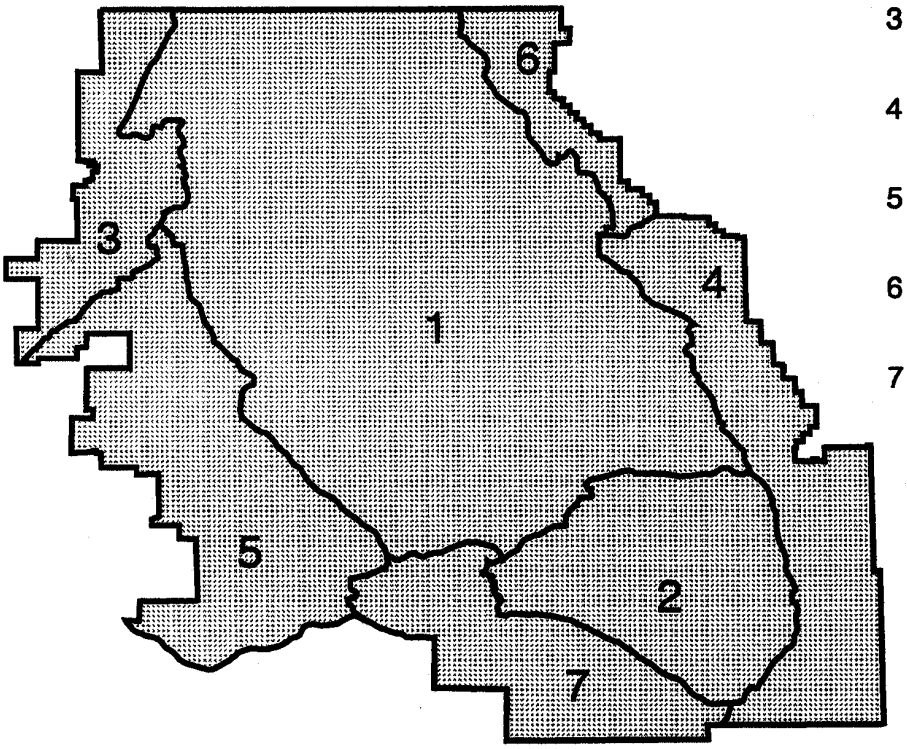
The resource management objectives for these areas of sagebrush and grass are to improve wildlife habitat and promote plant species and age class diversity.

The areas include checkerboard lands, Interstate 80, oil and gas fields, and major utility rights-of-way.

Fire frequency is low with four fires recorded in 10 years. These fires burned about 150 acres.

Generally, wildland fires would be suppressed in this area. The desired burn area is about 5 percent of the public lands in this fire management area per decade.

Fire Management Areas Administered by the Worland and Cody Field Offices

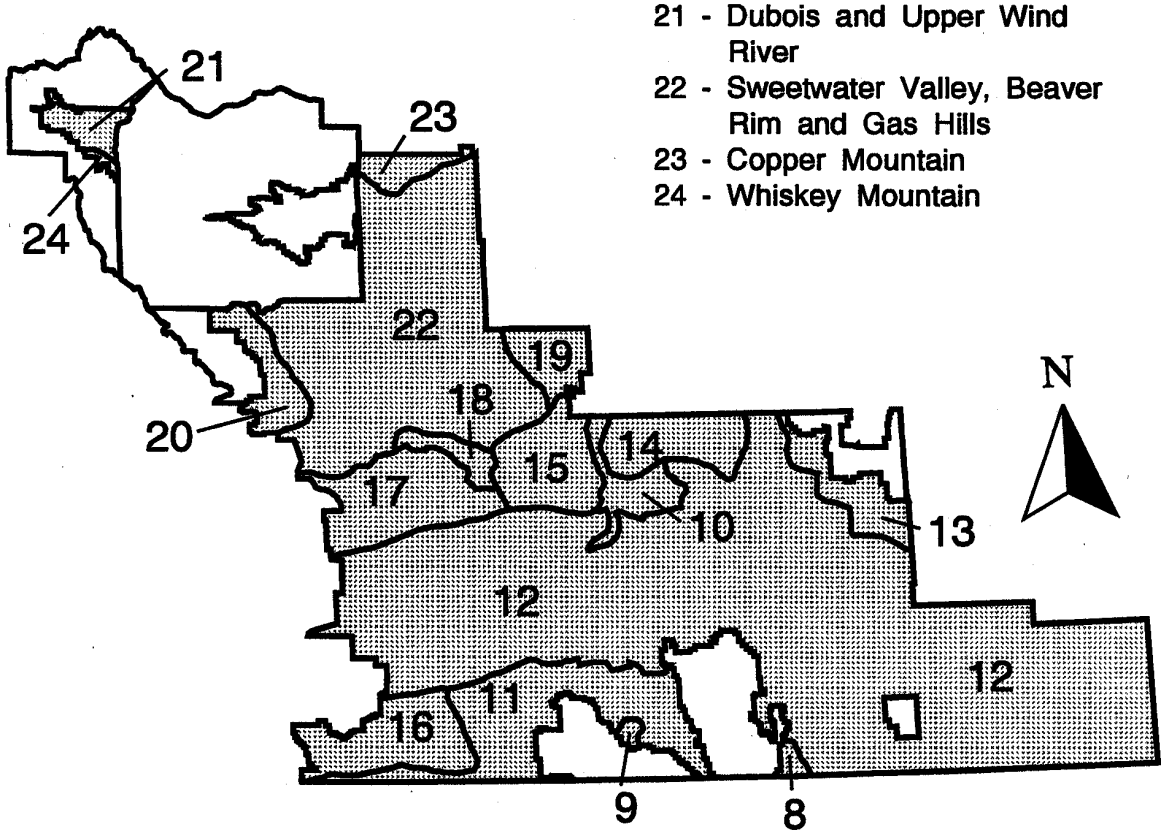


1 - Central Bighorn Basin
2 - Southern Bighorn Basin
3 - Northern Absaroka Mountains
4 - Southern Bighorn Mountains
5 - Southern Absaroka Mountains
6 - Northern Bighorn Mountains
7 - Bridger Mountains

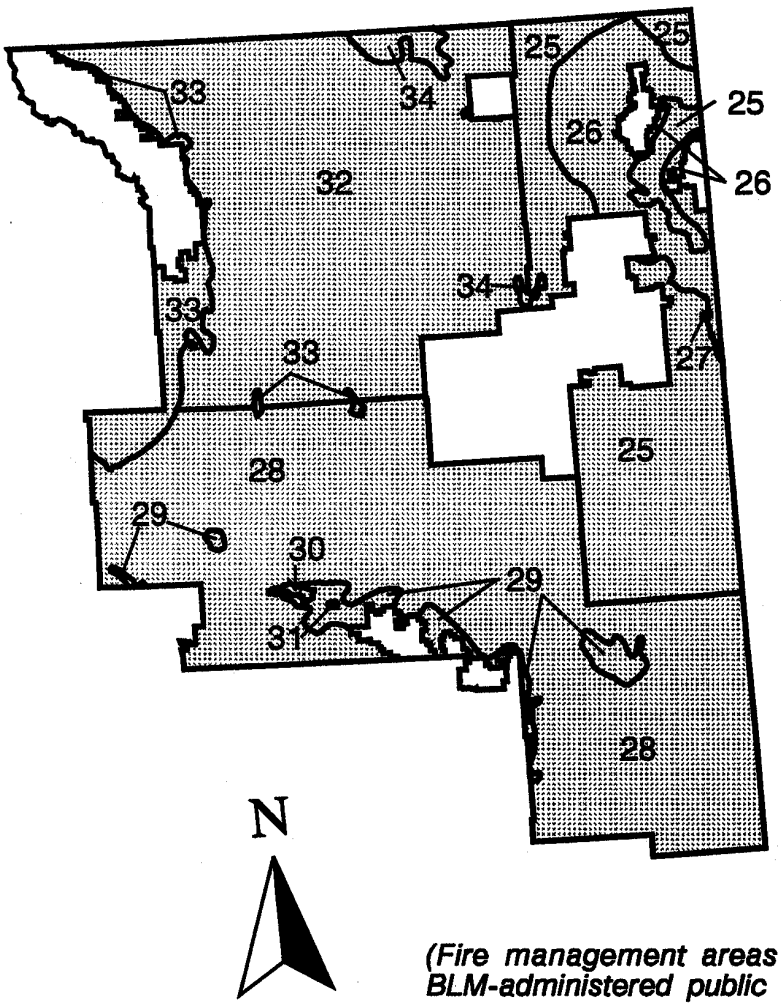
Fire Management Areas Administered by the Rawlins and Lander Field Offices

(Fire management areas consist of BLM-administered public lands in the shaded areas only.)

8 - Woods Landing, Jelm and Sheep Mountains
9 - Encampment Canyon WSA
10 - Seminoe and Shirley Mountains
11 - Platte Valley and Baggs Crucial Winter Range
12 - Checkerboard and Intermingled Lands
13 - Laramie Peak Area
14 - Shirley Basin
15 - Ferris Mountains, Pedro Mountains and Sentinel Rocks
16 - Kinney Rim, Adobe Town and Skull Creek
17 - Great Divide Basin
18 - Green and Crooks Mountains
19 - Rattlesnake Hills
20 - South Pass, Red Canyon and Lander Slope
21 - Dubois and Upper Wind River
22 - Sweetwater Valley, Beaver Rim and Gas Hills
23 - Copper Mountain
24 - Whiskey Mountain



Fire Management Areas Administered by the Casper, Buffalo, and Newcastle Field Offices



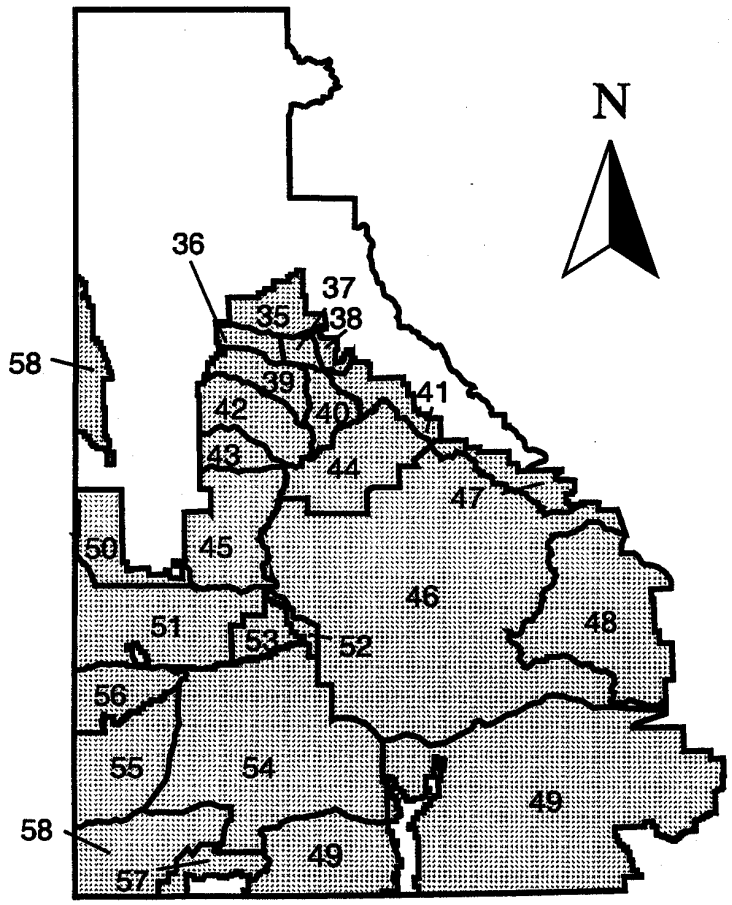
25 - Crook, Weston, and Niobrara Counties
- 26 - Black Hills
- 27 - Whoopup Canyon

28 - Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte Counties
- 29 - Laramie Range and Rattlesnake Mountains
- 30 - Jackson Canyon
- 31 - Muddy Mountain Environmental Education Area

32 - Johnson, Sheridan, and Campbell Counties
- 33 - Eastern Bighorn Mountains
- 34 - Northern Campbell County and Bishop Area

(Fire management areas consist of BLM-administered public lands in the shaded areas only.)

Fire Management Areas Administered by the Rock Springs, Kemmerer, and Pinedale Field Offices



35 - Warren Bridge
36 - Beaver Ridge
37 - Cora Butte
38 - Pinedale
39 - Ryegrass and Soaphole
40 - Mesa
41 - Boulder Lake and Big Sandy
42 - Bench Corral
43 - Deer Hills
44 - Desert
45 - LaBarge
46 - Big Sandy
47 - Sweetwater
48 - Red Desert
49 - Little Mountain
50 - Smiths Fork and Raymond Mountain
51 - Hams Fork and Rock Creek
52 - Green River and Seedskadee
53 - Slate Creek
54 - Bridger Valley and Granger
55 - Bear River Divide
56 - Collett Creek and Twin Creek
57 - Meeks Cabin
58 - Afton and Evanston

(Fire management areas consist of BLM-administered public lands in the shaded areas only.)

GLOSSARY

Appropriate Management Response (AMR). - Specific actions taken in response to a naturally occurring wildland fire to implement protection and fire use objectives, while considering firefighter and public safety, anticipated management costs, resource values at risk, resource benefits, threats to private property, opportunities for reducing hazardous fuels, and political and social concerns. Appropriate management response would involve a wide range of fire management options. These might include confining or containing a wildland fire so it stays within a predetermined boundary, or aggressively and quickly suppressing the fire.

biological diversity. The variety of life and its processes. Although vastly complex, it includes some measurable distinctions like genetic differences within and among species, species variations, association of species with each other and their environments, and the patterns and linkages of these biological communities across geographic areas. (Keystone Center 1991.) According to West (1993) "biological diversity is the variety of life and its process, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among the, the communities, the ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur, plus the interactions of these components. Some [authorities] would add the local peoples, their culture, and their 'indigenous knowledge' to the list.

browse. The part of the current leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, and trees available for animal consumption.

forage for big game and livestock. Browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

Bureau of Reclamation-withdrawn (BOR-) lands. A withdrawal is actions that restrict the use of public lands and segregate the land from the operation of some or all of the public lands and/or mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management to other Federal agencies, in this case, to the Bureau of Reclamation.

crucial winter range. Winter habitat that a wildlife species depends upon for survival, especially during severe winter weather conditions. Alternative habitat areas would be very limited or unavailable because of severe weather conditions or other limiting factors.

desired burn acreage. The maximum acreage of public land that could be burned per decade by prescribed and wildland fire to meet resource management objectives.

full suppression. A strategy for extinguishing fires that require immediate and continuous aggressive attack in the safest, most cost-effective manner, with the least amount of property damage or resources lost. Full suppression may include control, containment, or confinement of a wildfire to meet land management objectives.

initial attack. An aggressive suppression action consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

prescribed fire. Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements must be met prior to ignition.

prescription. Measurable criteria which guide selection of appropriate management response and actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social or legal considerations.

public lands. Any land or interest in lands owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, except lands located on the outer Continental Shelf and lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos. (43 CFR 1601.0-5)

visual resource management (VRM). The planning and implementation of management objectives for maintaining scenic values and visual quality on public lands. Visual resource management classes determine the amount of change that would be allowed to basic elements of the lands scape. One (of the five) VRM classes is identified in this document, Class 11. In Class 11 areas, changes in basic elements (form, line, color I texture) of the landscape can be evident but must remain subordinate to the existing landscape.

wildfire. Any unwanted wildland fire.

wildland fire. Any nonstructure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.