

Cedar Mountain Special Management Area Proposal

(DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT)

This proposal considers the Cedar Mountain WSA with an aerial extent of 21,580 acres (map attached) located in Hot Springs and Washakie Counties, Wyoming. The boundary along the southwest side would be the boundary depicted in the BLM's 1991 recommendations for wilderness, which moves that boundary to the ridgeline avoiding conflicts with a road accessing agricultural lands on private property.

The Cedar Mountain WSA would be released from wilderness area consideration and would, be designated a **Special Management Area** (SMA); a designation that defines an area of concern to an agency (BLM) and directs them how to manage it. Designation is subject to valid existing rights and only affects Federally managed land; no effect on private land within or adjacent to the area.

Management Purposes

Management purposes of the **Cedar Mountain Special Management Area** are to maintain the area's recreational, scenic, cultural, ecological, wildlife and livestock production values. Management consistent with purposes and only uses consistent with the purposes are permitted.

Cedar Mountain Special Management Area Allowable Uses and Management:

Recreation:

Mechanized and motorized recreation would be allowed but restricted to existing roads and trails where these uses were permitted as of date of enactment. Routes would be designated in a travel management plan that the BLM would be required to develop for the Area. This travel management plan would include narrative depicting how travel regulations would be enforced. Due to the arid nature of the area, highly erodible soils and steep topography, construction of additional roads or trails for recreational purposes would not be allowed. Horse and foot travel would continue as allowed previous to enactment.

Mining/Energy/Disposal:

Valid existing rights would be honored.

All solid, locatable, and saleable minerals would be withdrawn from leasing.

Fluid minerals would be available for leasing with a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation within the **Cedar Mountain Special Management Area**.

Agriculture:

Livestock grazing shall occur on rangeland within the SMA consistent with the purposes of the area and be managed in accordance with The Taylor Grazing Act 1934, The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978 and Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act. Livestock management practices, including fence maintenance would continue and motorized access for water development and maintenance including reservoirs, guzzlers and potential water pipelines are allowable

where necessary to meet the purposes of the area. Roads necessary for agricultural practices would continue to be used and maintained. Noxious weed control as well as fire control would be allowed as would vegetation management if consistent with the Area's purposes and existing law.

Wildlife:

Hunting and wildlife viewing would continue. Habitat improvements such as development of water resources, elimination of woven wire fences and conversion of existing fences to wildlife friendly fences would be allowed consistent with the purposes of the area.

Other

The BLM, with public involvement including Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites and Trails, would be required to conduct a study evaluating potential areas for development of mountain bike and ORV activities in (but not limited to) Hot Springs County.

