

Appendix 7.

Project correspondence

FINAL

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT-TASK ORDER NO. WY910-CA9-001TQC1

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RAWLINS DISTRICT OFFICE

and

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TASK FORCE

I. PURPOSE

US Highway 287 crosses Beaver Rim between Lander and Jeffrey City. The Lander Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has designated an eight mile section of the Rim extending north-northeast from the highway crossing as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The ACEC will be managed to protect populations of plant species endemic to the area, pristine plant communities, raptor habitat and geologic features (see attached map).

This area has been identified in the BLMs Lander RMP as a top priority plant community that needs baseline inventory work. This site contains a combination of unique plant communities and several rare plants. Some of the rare plants include Astragalus simplicifolius (Bun milkvetch), Oxytropis nana (Wyoming locoweed), Townsendia spatulata (Wyoming Townsendia), and Penstemon paysoniorum (Payson's penstemon). Two plant communities (Limber pine/Bluebunch wheatgrass, and a cushion plant community dominated by Astragalus simplicifolius) along Beaver Rim are highly representative of Wyoming Basin escarpment plant communities and also contain several rare plants.

This cooperative effort between the BLM Rawlins District Office and the Rocky Mountain Heritage Task Force of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is being undertaken to:

- 1) inventory the ACEC to determine distribution of plant species and communities of concern;
- 2) collect data for describing the plant communities, placing them in a community classification, and assessing their successional status;
- 3) provide guidelines for developing a management prescription for the ACEC designed to protect plant species and communities of concern.

II. AUTHORITY

This task order is issued in accordance with the provisions of Cooperative Agreement No. WY910-CA9-001 between the BLM and TNC, and derives its authority therefrom.

III. STATEMENT OF WORK

A. The BLM and TNC mutually agree to:

1. Meet at least twice during the project (once in early summer 1989 and once in late September 1989), with the BLM Rawlins District Wildlife Biologist, the BLM Lander Resource Area Supervisory Range Conservationist, the TNC Wyoming Public Lands Protection Planner, and the Wyoming Natural Diversity Data Base (WNDDDB) Ecologist all represented, to discuss plant species and plant community inventory which would advance mutual resource management goals and objectives for the Beaver Rim ACEC.

B. TNC agrees to:

1. Provide labor, transportation, supplies, and equipment to conduct floristic and vegetation inventory in accordance with the requirements of this task order.
2. TNC will deliver to the BLM:
 - (a) A written progress report by September 29, 1989.
 - (b) A draft management report by November 1, 1989. The draft report shall contain the following items: USGS 7.5' topographic maps showing all occurrences of target elements (i.e., plant communities and sensitive plant species) identified during the course of the project; printed copies of element occurrence records from the Wyoming Natural Heritage Database for target elements; and a plan addressing habitat requirements and distribution of target elements, existing and potential threats to target elements, and management recommendations (including a proposed monitoring program).
 - (c) A final copy of the report and other ancillary materials, described above in 2.(b) shall be delivered to BLM by December 29, 1989.
 - (d) A copy of any scientific publication or professional paper resulting from the work described shall be furnished to BLM.

C. The BLM agrees to:

- (a) Make BLM lands available for completion of the specified work.

- (b) Provide timely review of the progress report, draft, and final reports submitted to the Assistance Officer's Representative (AOR) before acceptance in accordance with the requirements outlined herein.
- (c) Obligate funds to the TNC, WNDDDB Ecologist in accordance with the requirements of this task order for the purpose of assisting the Wyoming Ecologist to defray costs of labor, travel, supplies, equipment usage, and any other indirect costs expended in the furtherance of this project prior to September 29, 1989.
- (d) Prepare and issue a letter describing this project to each of the grazing permittees on the Dishpan Butte and East Beaver Common Allotments before the project begins; and also provide a copy of the letter and permittee mailing list to the WNDDDB Ecologist.

IV. FUNDING

A. The BLM shall provide funds not to exceed \$1,800 as assistance to the TNC for the vegetation and/or floristic inventory and other work items described above. Funding is available under appropriation, and the accounting designation for this work effort is WY030-09-4352-06-2512.

B. Requests for payment should be submitted to:

Fred Stabler
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins District Office
P.O. Box 670
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. The BLM Assistance Officer is Kermit Johnson, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82003, (307) 772-2042.

B. The BLM Assistance Officer's Representative is Fred Stabler, BLM Rawlins District, Box 670, Rawlins, Wyoming, 82301, (307) 324-7171.

C. The Nature Conservancy Field Representative for this task order is George Jones, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database Ecologist, Box 3165, University Station, Laramie, Wyoming, 82307, (307) 742-0056.

IV. APPROVAL

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TASKFORCE

BY:

Hollis Marvick

Program Coordinator
Title

2 May 1989
Date

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (WYOMING)
RAWLINS DISTRICT OFFICE

/s/ Richard Bastin

By:

Richard W. Bastin

District Manager
Title




APR 14 1989
Date

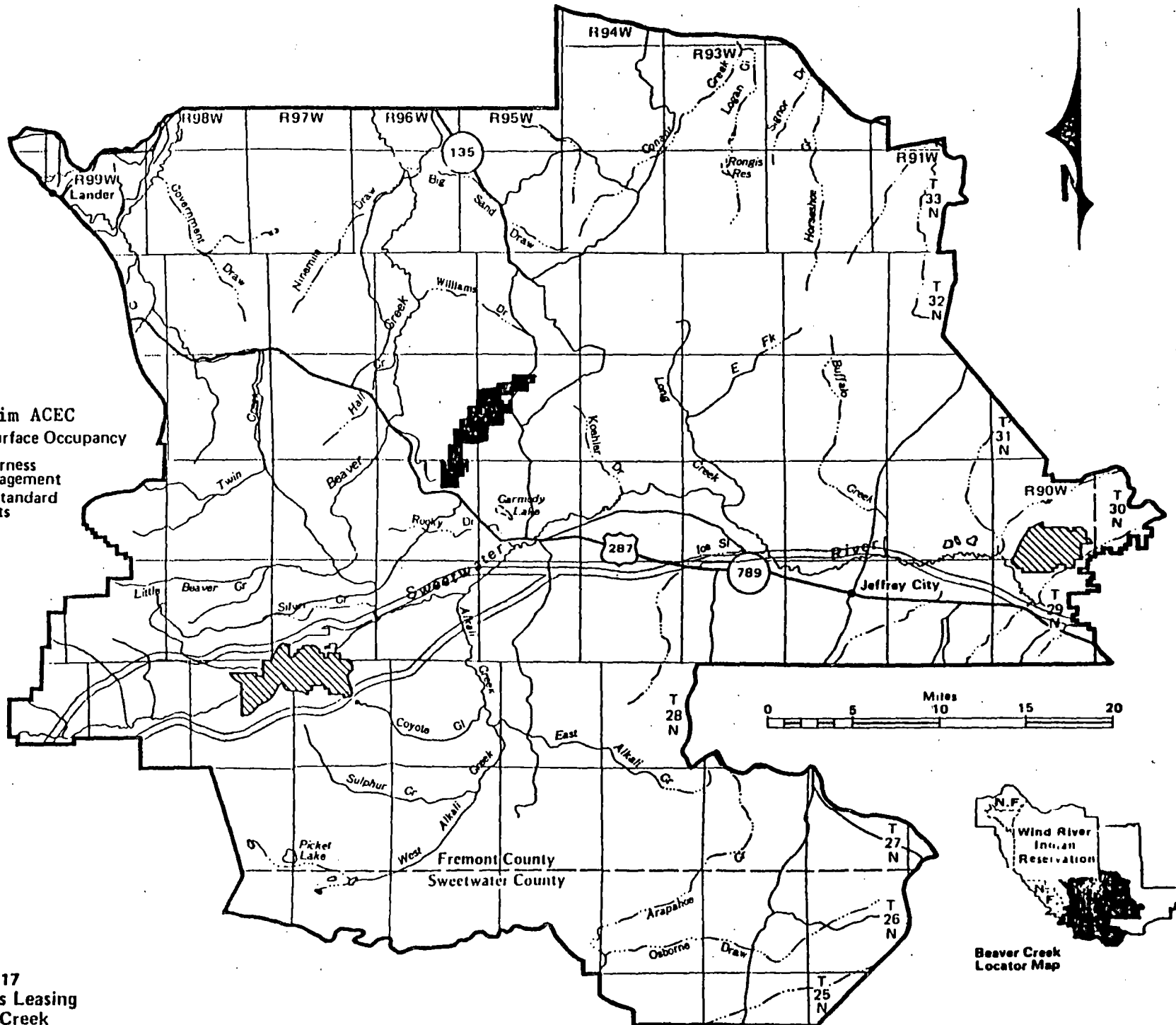
Reviewed By:

Kermit Johnson

Assistance Officer
Title

5-2-89
Date

-  Beaver Rim ACEC Open, No Surface Occupancy
-  Under Wilderness Interim Management
-  Open with Standard Requirements



Map 17
Oil and Gas Leasing
Beaver Creek

Beaver Creek
Locator Map

received 5-26



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LANDER RESOURCE AREA
P.O. BOX 589
LANDER, WYOMING 82520

4120.7
4190.1
GR No. 3717

May 24, 1989

John Hancock Mutual Life Ins. Co.
c/o Ken Ballard
P.O. Box 50, Rawlins Route
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Mr. Ballard:

US Highway 287 crosses Beaver Rim between Lander and Jeffrey City. The Lander Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has designated an eight mile section of the Rim extending north-northeast from the highway crossing as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The ACEC will be managed to protect populations of plant species endemic to the area, pristine plant communities, raptor habitat and geologic features (see attached map).

This area has been identified in the Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP) as a priority plant community that needs baseline inventory work. This site contains a combination of unique plant communities and several rare plants.

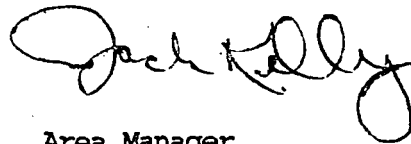
Field work beginning in early June, 1989, as a cooperative effort between the BLM Rawlins District Office and the Rocky Mountain Heritage Task Force of the The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is being undertaken to:

- 1) inventory the ACEC to determine distribution of plant species and communities of concern;
- 2) collect data for describing the plant communities, placing them in a community classification, and assessing their successional status; and,
- 3) provide guidelines for developing a management prescription for the ACEC designed to protect plant species and communities of concern.

The Nature Conservancy Field Representative for this project is George Jones, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database Ecologist. He will be conducting the field work in the Beaver Rim ACEC. If you see George working along Beaver Rim, please feel free to stop and visit. He will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you have any other questions concerning this project, please contact John Likins at this office. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Kelly". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name "Area Manager".

Area Manager.

1 Enclosure:
1 - Map

cc: George Jones
Dave Belitsky

MAILING LIST

John Hancock Mutual Life Ins. Co.
c/o Ken Ballard
P.O. Box 50, Rawlins Route
Lander, WY 82520

Ed Virden
495 Lyons Valley Road
Lander, WY 82520

John H. and Doris Osborne
Paradise Valley Route
Box 2409
Riverton, WY 82501

Mrs. Edna Bringolf
1106 E. Main St.
Riverton, WY 82501

Robert W. Hamilton
551 Lyons Valley Rd.
Lander, WY 82520

Philp Sheep Company
c/o John Philp
P.O. Box 63
Lystie, WY 82642

JB and Lorraine L. Foster
835 Riverside Drive
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

INVENTORY OF THE
BEAVER RIM AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared for the Rawlins District,
Bureau of Land Management

by

George P. Jones
Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
The Nature Conservancy
Box 3165, University Station
Laramie, Wyoming 82071
(307) 766-3441

under Cooperative Agreement-Task Order No. WY910-CA9-001TQC1

September 21, 1989

I. Introduction

This progress report is submitted to the Bureau of Land Management as specified in Cooperative Agreement-Task Order No. WY910-CA9-001TQC1, between the Bureau and the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WNDDDB) of The Nature Conservancy. A draft report on the inventory of the Beaver Rim ACEC will be submitted to the BLM by November 1, 1989, and a final report will be submitted by December 29, 1989.

II. Methods

George Jones, WNDDDB ecologist, visited the Beaver Rim ACEC on May 14, 1989, to look for flowering specimens of target plant species. He spent the period June 5 to June 17, 1989 in the ACEC, determining the distribution of target plant species and plant communities and collecting data on the vegetation in the communities. During this field work, Jones collected data from plots in three limber pine stands, one Douglas fir stand, and two cushion plant stands, and noted the location and composition of other stands of these vegetation types; surveyed the ACEC to determine the distribution of target plant species; and collected plant specimens for comparison with herbarium material.

III. Results to date

Conifer stands

Limber pine stands grow along the northwest- and west-facing Beaver Rim throughout most of the ACEC. They also occur on east-facing, south-facing, and west-facing slopes of the butte in the middle of the ACEC (sections 19 and 30). These stands generally have open overstories of scattered limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*), mixed with Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) on dry sites and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) on more mesic sites. The understory is sparse, and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*) is the most common dominant. Stands in north-facing, mesic draws at the southern end of the ACEC have denser tree overstories, a shrub component, and denser understory vegetation. The limber pine stands merge with Douglas fir stands on more mesic sites.

Stands of Douglas fir occupy north facing draws and slopes on the higher parts of the Rim. The overstory often contains some limber pine, suggesting that Douglas fir may succeed limber pine on mesic sites. The understory is denser than understories in limber pine stands.

Cushion plant stands

Cushion plant vegetation occurs intermittently on shallow,

rocky soils along the edge of Beaver Rim and the butte in the central part of the ACEC, between the escarpments and the sagebrush steppe vegetation on the adjoining uplands. Phlox muscoides dominates large patches within these stands. Astragalus sp. (either A. simplicifolius or A. spatulatus) is common and may dominate.

Target plant species

Phlox pungens (stiff-leaved phlox), Townsendia spatulata (Wyoming townsendia), and, apparently, Physaria saximontana (Rocky Mountain twinpod) grow throughout the ACEC. (Phlox pungens and Physaria saximontana were not listed as a target species in the Task Order, but both are endemic to central Wyoming and, therefore, deserve protection in the ACEC. Positive identification of Physaria to species must await comparison of collections with herbarium material.) The phlox is abundant, occurring on nearly every sparsely-vegetated slope visited during the inventory. It dominates some patches. Townsendia spatulata and Physaria sp. also grow on sparsely-vegetated slopes, but they are uncommon.

Penstemon paysoniorum (Payson's penstemon) grows on sparsely-vegetated slopes with coarse substrates in the southwestern half of the ACEC. Patches of the plant are common, but plants are sparse within the patches. Overall, this species is uncommon.

Oxytropis nana (Wyoming locoweed) was observed only in SW1/4 Sec 2 and NW1/4 Sec 11, near the southern end of the ACEC. It is common on sparsely-vegetated, south- and west-facing slopes, on coarse substrates.

Astragalus simplicifolius (bun milkvetch) may be restricted to the southern end of the ACEC, on several northwest-facing slopes southwest of the old Beaver Rim highway. Leaves of this species are nearly identical to leaves of Astragalus simplicifolius (which also grows in the area), and the two species can only be separated by flowers or fruits. Plants tentatively identified as A. simplicifolius were observed in cushion plant stands throughout the ACEC. Many other individuals of the genus apparently had already lost their fruits or failed to flower this year, and could not be identified to species. Plants tentatively identified as bun milkvetch (based on flowers and fruits) were seen only in the southern end of the ACEC.

IV. Management recommendations

WNDDDB routinely recommends a monitoring program for ACECs, and other steps directed at obvious management problems. Our recommendation for the Beaver Rim ACEC will probably include

selection of photo points for periodic photographing of conifer stands and cushion plant stands (to document change in distributions); selection of some stands for sampling of vegetation (to document changes in composition and structure); periodic survey of the ACEC (to document changes in distributions of target plant species); and establishment of permanent plots for periodic census of target plant species. These steps should reveal any potential problems which might exist or arise in the ACEC, and which might require further management action.

Two weed populations were observed on the ACEC, and these will require treatment. Knapweed (Centaurea diffusa or C. repens) is growing on the shoulders of the old Beaver Rim highway, in SW1/4 Sec 2 and NW1/4 Sec 11. A small stand of Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) was found in a mesic northwest-facing draw in SE1/4NW1/4 Sec 2.

Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
The Nature Conservancy
Box 3165, University Station
Laramie, Wyoming 82071
(307) 766-3441

September 22, 1989

INVOICE

TO: Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins District Office
P. O. Box 670
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

WORK EFFORT: WY030-09-4352-06-2512

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT-TASK ORDER NO.: WY910-CA9-001TQC1

DESCRIPTION: Inventory the Beaver Rim Area of Critical Environmental Concern to determine the distribution of plant species and communities of concern; collect data for describing the plant communities, placing them in a community classification, and assessing their successional status; and provide guidelines for developing a management prescription for the ACEC designed to protect plant species and communities of concern.

AMOUNT DUE UPON RECEIPT OF PROGRESS REPORT: \$1,800.00

PLEASE REMIT TO:

The Nature Conservancy
Rocky Mountain Heritage Task Force
134 Union Blvd., Suite 125
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
attn: Wyoming Natural Diversity Database