

APPENDIX C

**PAST AND PRESENT
AND
FORESEEABLE ACTIVITIES**

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PAST, PRESENT, AND FORESEEABLE ACTIVITIES TECKLA- OSAGE-RAPID CITY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Past, present and foreseeable forest activities are summarized in the following tables for South Dakota (Table C-1) and Wyoming (Table C-2).

TABLE C-1 SOUTH DAKOTA PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS		
Project Name	Project Description	Schedule
Fire wood gathering	Public would continue to gather firewood in accessible regions in the area.	Ongoing
Christmas tree cutting	Public would continue to cut Christmas trees in accessible regions in the area.	Ongoing
Subdivision development	Given current trends, it is likely that additional private lands may be subdivided and new residences constructed. Additional special use permits such as utility, water line, rights-of-way, and access/easements may be requested.	Ongoing
Special Use Permits	The area contains telephone overhead and underground distribution and transmission power utility lines under special use permits. Maintenance is ongoing for these facilities. Use of access routes would continue	Ongoing
Range developments and livestock grazing	Includes fencing, dugouts, wells, spring developments, etc. Permitted livestock grazing would continue on NFS (National Forest System) NFS and on private lands.	Ongoing
Vegetative Treatment	Commercial and non-commercial vegetative treatments would continue in the area. Treatments may include timber harvest, hardwood restoration, meadow restoration, and fuel treatments. These types of treatments may also occur on private land but at a smaller scale. Additional roads/trails may be constructed.	Ongoing
Wildfires	The frequency, size and intensity of possible wildfires depend upon various factors, including weather, ignition means, and fuels loadings. There is a greater hazard for wildfires to occur in the cumulative effects analysis area due to high fuel hazards as a result of Mountain Pine Beetle caused pine mortality	Ongoing
Recreation	Recreation activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and the use of off-road vehicles would continue in the area.	Ongoing

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TABLE C-1
SOUTH DAKOTA PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Project Name	Project Description	Schedule
Integrated Pest Management	Treatments to reduce or eliminate noxious weeds and invasive species would continue on NFS and private property within the area. Treatments may include pesticides, biological control agents for example.	Ongoing
Mountain Pine Beetle Response	Projects that reduce the susceptibility of conifer stands to mountain pine beetle epidemic and reduce the fire hazard as a result of Mountain Pine Beetle caused mortality would continue in the analysis area. These projects may include commercial and non-commercial treatments, fuel reduction treatments, sanitation, and pesticide spraying. Treatments would occur on NFS lands, especially adjacent to private land, utility corridors, in developed recreation areas and along egress routes. Similar treatments would likely occur on private land but at a smaller scale.	Ongoing

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**TABLE C-2
WYOMING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS**

Project Name	Project Description	Schedule
RT Communications, Inc. – South Upton Project	Replacing a telecommunication line within an adjacent to its existing right-of-way (ROW). This area includes 6.69 miles (by 20 feet wide) on National Grassland.	Completed Summer 2012
RT Communications, Inc. – Keeline to Wright	New fiber optic line would be placed in the ROW of WY Highway 450, 90, and 387. This would be on 4.13 miles of National Grassland.	Project completion Winter 2013
Weston County Easements	Authorize the conversion of a number of existing crown and ditch roads that cross the TBNG to Weston County, WY ownership.	Completed July 2012
Inyan Kara Assembled Land Exchange	This land exchange is being handled by the Inyan Kara Grazing Association on behalf of 13 landowners in Weston County, WY The land exchange consists of 16,600 acres.	Project completion Spring 2014
Inyan Kara Analysis Area Vegetation Management, Phase II	Implement vegetation management to meet the desired goals of the Grassland Plan.	Completed Fall 2008
Upton-Osage Fuels Reduction Project	85 acres of sanitation salvage (overtopped, dead and dying trees), 256 acres of shelter wood (overstory and understory removal), Commercial Thinning 204 acres (remove pole size), 104 acres of Pre-commercial thin (smaller than pole size), understory removal, thinning from below, 75 acres of boundary treatment (trees 50-100 feet from the boundary), 195 acres of broadcast burning (under burn to reduce timber treatment slash)	Completed
Westport Oil and Gas – Nicholson CBNG POD	Created 10 coal bed natural gas wells. Approximately 760 acres of NFS land was disturbed.	Completed
Wright Area Coal Lease by Application	Analyze the applications for coal leases in the Wright area. It is aimed at the continuation of coal mining for the Jacobs Ranch, Black Thunder, and North Antelope Rochelle Mines.	Analysis completed Fall 2012, but not all decisions have been made
Thunder Basin Coal Company, LLC – Black Thunder Mine: Installation/Construction of Dewatering Wells and Overstripping Area	The proposed dewatering wells are located on NFS lands, and consist of two areas. The USFS has identified a need to authorize Thunder Basin Coal Company, LLC to construct the dewatering wells and overstrip activities.	Completed August 2012

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Project Name	Project Description	Schedule
Black Thunder Mine Topsoil and Overburden Stockpile	Thunder Basin Coal Company's Black Thunder Mine (BTM) has requested an authorization to occupy NFS lands for the purpose of constructing and storing topsoil and overburden stockpiles. The proposed project area lies immediately adjacent to BTM's existing lease and within the West Hilight Coal Lease by Application, which has been analyzed for potential environmental impacts under the Wright Area EIS	N/A
North Antelope Rochelle and School Creek Mines 69 kV Power line	New construction of 69 kV power line will include approximately 19.5 total miles of 69 kV overhead power line. Approximately 14.9 miles will include NFS land, to move power lines out of existing coal mine leases.	Completed January 2010
Relocation of Teckla Substation - Antelope Ridge Coal Lease	The portion of the proposed ROW route near the Teckla Substation in Wyoming is within the recently submitted Lease by Application (LBA) for the Antelope Ridge coal lease. This LBA was approved for further processing by the BLM by the Powder River Regional Coal Team at the October 26 th , 2011 meeting. The analysis for this LBA is led by the BLM Casper Field Office with the USFS as a cooperating agency; therefore the timeline is driven primarily by the BLM. Since the LBA has been approved for further analysis, the USFS will have conditions on all of the existing and new authorizations that facilities may remain in place until such time that the land is placed under lease. Since the authorization is non-exclusive and grants no ownership rights, therefore all authorizations could be revoked. Discussions and analysis of the relocation of the entire Teckla Substation are currently being negotiated, as the substation also sits within the proposed coal LBA. It is unknown at this time where the chosen location of the substation will be. This changed condition could result in a new route alternative that would need to be considered if the site location is known at the time this EIS document is finalized.	Timing of the completion of the analysis for this LBA will not likely be completed until 2014 or later

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Project Name	Project Description	Schedule
School Creek Mine Coal Mining Startup Facilities	West Roundup Resources, Inc. has requested an authorization to amend the existing School Creek Mine special use permit to include an additional (approximately) 663 acres of NFS land.	Completed August 2012
West Antelope II Coal Lease Application	BLM held a coal lease sale for federal coal tracts and issuance of a federal coal lease. This project included 4,109 acres of federal land and an estimated 429.7 million tons of in-place federal coal.	Completed August 2009
Lance Oil Antelope - Road Use & Access Permit.	Proposes to use the NFSR 1121.E1 road for approximately 0.52 miles from the intersection of Antelope Road Campbell County RD 17-4 to the south in Section 3 T. 41 N., R. 71 W. on the TBNG. The existing road is crowned and ditched road for .3 miles with 14 foot driving surface the remaining road is a flat bladed road to the property line. Proposes to rebuild the road to a crowned and ditched graveled road with a 20' driving surface. Proposes to use the road year around for access to a well pad for both drilling and long term operation.	Projected completion August 2013.
North Antelope Rochelle Mine Road Relocation	Proposes to construct new roads to relocate the existing Antelope and Matheson roads. The existing roads will be mined through, and there is a need to reroute the current travel way. Approximately 4.4 miles of road will be located on NSF land. The construction corridor is 150 feet.	Completed 2010
North Antelope Rochelle Mine Dewatering Activity	North Antelope Rochelle Mine (NARM) of Peabody Powder River Mining, LLC requested an amendment to their current Special Use Permit for Ancillary Facilities Related to Mining Activity to authorize drilling test holes for potential dewatering activity on NFS lands. The proposal consists of approximately 230 test holes on NFS lands totaling approximately 567 acres that occur outside the NARM lease boundary but within the mine's permit boundary.	Completed 2012
Antelope Mine Rail Spur Expansion	Antelope Coal LLC has requested an authorization to amend the existing Antelope Mine special use permit to allow expansion of the railroad spur area associated with expansion and increased capacity of the coal load-out facility.	Projected completion Spring 2013.

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Project Name	Project Description	Schedule
Geokinetics Alta 3D Geophysical Project # 36909	The project will encompass approximately 634 square miles with approximately 120,480 acres of the Thunder Basin National Grassland included in the project area. The project is proposed as a multi-source geophysical vibrosis with some shot holes	Phase 1 completed January 2011; Phase 2 projected completion November 2013
Geothermal Leasing Environmental Impact Statement	The BLM and FS are preparing a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the leasing of BLM and USFS administered lands with moderate to high potential for geothermal resources in 11 western states.	N/A
Plan Amendment for Prairie Dog Management	The ferret reintroduction area boundary would be modified. This project would add management tools for controlling the prairie dog that are not currently available, such as lethal and non-lethal, landownership adjustment and third party solutions.	Completed March 2010 and is ongoing
Invasive Plant Management EIS for Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and TBNG.	States of CO and WY, including Campbell and Weston counties. This proposal would allow the aerial application of the herbicides Plateau and Journey to treat infestations of cheatgrass acres on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and TBNG	Projected completion Summer 2014
Travel Management	Travel Management for the TBNG. This project covers the entire Grassland. Review and analysis of the roads/trails for designation, include: opening trails/roads, closing trails/roads, converting roads to trails, decommissioning trails/roads, seasonal closures for trails/roads, and constructing trails/roads.	N/A
Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures - TBNG Plan Amendment	The TBNG is a cooperating agency in the development of a programmatic EIS to incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse conservation measures into land management plans through plan amendment, including the TBNG plan. The Wyoming BLM is the lead agency.	N/A

N/A = Not Applicable