## LAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHEETS

Ecoregion/Planning Area Information

Leoregion/1 tunning Area Information				
	Information about the planning area as it relates to the			
Information about the ecoregion	ecoregion			
Size and general geographic location.	<ul> <li>Orientation of the planning area within the ecoregion.</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Percent of the ecoregion that (1) all lands in the planning area</li> </ul>			
	cover and (2) BLM lands in the planning area cover.			
Overall ecoregion condition (past versus	■ The overall condition of the BLM lands relative to the			
present) and major issues affecting	condition of the ecoregion.			
function and resource trends (i.e., fire	<ul> <li>Information relative to how current land use allocations and</li> </ul>			
suppression, habitat fragmentation, and	management BLM lands might be contributing to or helping to			
invasive species).	alleviate the major ecological issues of the ecoregion.			
Features of the ecoregion that are	■ The extent to which the planning area or portions within it			
unique or are particularly important to	may be ecologically important to maintaining ecosystem			
ecological condition (e.g., large blocks	function. 1			
of grasslands or sagebrush).				
1 This information may not be available depending	on the source of ecoregion information used.			

When considering resources within a planning area, consider the following five factors:

- Indicators. Identify factors that describe resource condition such as ambient pollutant level, visibility, and fire regime condition class. Indicators should be quantitative whenever possible.
- 2. Current Condition. Describe the location and current condition of the resource in the planning area. Condition can be determined by comparing the value of indicator(s) to an established standard (current plan goal or objective). The scale of the analysis may extend beyond the immediate planning area boundary and encompass a logical landscape (the analysis area). For instance, the analysis can occur at different levels such as by watershed, geographic area, or region.
- 3. Trends. Describe the degree and direction of change between the present and some point in the past. Explain whether the trend is moving toward or away from the current desired condition based on the indicators. Also describe the drivers or agents of change. Note that for some resources, a desired condition has not been established or there will not be enough information to describe trends. When describing trends, note whether the trend is based on quantitative or qualitative information. For example, the trend for ambient pollutant levels most likely can be described from a quantitative standpoint; that is, based on changes in levels of criteria pollutants over time as recorded in published data. For other resources where data are not available, a qualitative approach would be used.
- 4. *Forecast*. Predict changes in the condition of resources given current management. Describe the agents of the anticipated change.
- 5. **Key features.** Describe the geographic location, distribution, areas or types of resource features that should guide land use allocation or management decisions. For example, certain areas may be particularly important to special status species habitat, or some soil types may be better able to support certain land uses than others.

1. Greater overlap of ecologically Identify and map features important features may indicate that are ecologically that an area has greater relative importance. important. ||2. Features will vary by planning area. Consider Overlay individual maps identifying relative importance, if known. to identify initial areas Examples (not all inclusive): of relative ecological Large and Intact (unfragmented) areas: importance. Defining fragmentors (e.g. roads, pipelines) may help identify remaining blocks. Important soil and watershed/wetland values: Document watershed/wetland values, slope, soil type, and known fragility or erodability, which may influence allocations or desired outcomes. Habitat of Special Status Species (SSS): Habitat availability (including designated critical habitat for T&E species), areas of high concentration of individual SSS occurrence, or scarce (limited) habitats. NOTE: Landscape condition considerations 3. can be incorporated here, or as part of Step 3. Incorporate known information about landscape condition. 4. Make final adjustments based on landscape ecology principles. Map symbology may be developed to represent different landscape conditions or indicators (e.g. noxious weeds, areas missing fire return intervals, habitat availability, patch size and number, fragmentation.) When adjusting boundaries and/or relative importance, consider factors such as:

Size of area: Number and size of patches for the needs of

Connectivity: Proximity of patches with similar conditions.

Diversity: Range of different vegetative and animal

resource values on the landscape.

communities represented.

## **VOCABULARY**

agents of change ambient pollutant level boundary critical habitat ecological issues ecoregion erodability fragmentors fragmentation grasslands map symbology patches planning area quantitative/qualitative information sagebush slope watershed/wetland

Resources	Resource uses	Special designations	Social and economic
<ul> <li>Air quality</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Facilities</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Areas of critical</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tribal interests</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Geology</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Forestry and woodland</li> </ul>	environmental concern	<ul> <li>Public safety</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Soil resources</li> </ul>	products	<ul> <li>Back country byways</li> </ul>	(abandoned mines,
<ul> <li>Water resources (surface and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Livestock grazing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>National recreation</li> </ul>	debris flows, and
groundwater)	<ul> <li>Minerals (leasable,</li> </ul>	areas	hazardous materials)
<ul> <li>Vegetative communities <sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	locatable, salable)	<ul> <li>National trails</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Social and economic</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Fish and wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Recreation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wild and scenic rivers</li> </ul>	conditions
<ul> <li>Special status species</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Renewable energy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wilderness</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Wild horse and burros</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Transportation and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wilderness study areas</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Wildland fire ecology and</li> </ul>	access	_	
management	<ul> <li>Utility corridors and</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Cultural resources</li> </ul>	communication sites		
<ul> <li>Paleontological resources</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Land tenure</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Visual resources</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Land use</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Wilderness characteristics</li> </ul>	authorizations		
<ul> <li>Cave and karst resources</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Withdrawals</li> </ul>		
Vegetative communities can be identified at a variety of scales and include forests, woodlands, rangelands, riparian areas, and wetlands.			