PART III – PUBLIC LANDS

“To establish a land use planning process and policy framework as a basis for all decision and actions related to use of land and to assure an adequate factual base for such decisions and actions.”

INTRODUCTION

Harney County citizens depend upon access to, and the multiple-uses of, the public lands as directed through federal and state statutes. It is essential that sustained use of the natural resources within the County’s boundaries be utilized in order for the County to have the financial strength to provide the necessary services that the citizens of the County depend upon. When the use of these resources are restricted or eliminated, the economy shrinks and essential services are reduced. All activities that occur on public lands shall be coordinated with the County land use plan to ensure consistency, unless superseded by an act of Congress. Ongoing coordination and collaboration efforts shall be undertaken between local, state and federal land managers to ensure that the County’s land management goals/objectives are considered in selecting the best land management practices which support long-term economic and environmental sustainability.
SIZE and EXISTING LAND USE

Harney County encompasses 10,226.28 square miles or approximately 6,544,816.37 acres. Land ownership within the County falls into three categories: federal, state trust, and private. Federal land makes up roughly 72% of the total land area (4,716,657.8 acres) and is managed by a number of agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Agricultural Research Service, etc. State lands comprise approximately 3.02% (197,417.37 acres) and is managed by the Oregon Department of State Lands. The remaining land, approximately 24.92% (1,630,741.18 acres), is in private ownership. Table 3.A and the map on page 19 show the ownership of lands within the County. Uses on public land include grazing, recreation, timber activities, energy, and mineral extraction activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>SQMILES</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>% OWNED</th>
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<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>2,548.03</td>
<td>1,630,741.18</td>
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<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
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<td>Northern Great Basin Experimental Range</td>
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<td>U. S. Forest Service</td>
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<td>523,071.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake/ Unknown</td>
<td>10.41</td>
<td>6,665.42</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL PUBLIC</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,678.24</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,914,075.19</strong></td>
<td><strong>75.08%</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HARNEY COUNTY GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,226.28</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,544,816.37</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LAND USE ISSUES RELATED TO PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS

Just over seventy five percent of the land within the County’s jurisdiction is publicly owned; however, the County has the statutory and social responsibility to provide community services such as schools, hospitals, police, and infrastructure to the entire area within the political boundaries. The federal land management statutes recognize that income generated from public lands is important to sustaining and developing local economies. The exception to this statement would be the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (USC 668dd) which governs the operation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge.

Much of the private land in the County provides the base of operations for the productive uses of public lands, such as livestock grazing. Because of the inherent relationship between federal, state and private lands, all uses of federal and state lands are of critical
interest to the County, and the County Plan provides state approved policies that consider all these interests in one Comprehensive Plan to ensure the future economic/social/ecological viability of our Community.

The nature and intent of Harney County government land use planning is to protect the custom and culture of County citizens through the protection of private property rights, the facilitation of a free market economy, and the establishment of a process to ensure self-determination by local communities and individuals. The County recognizes that Tribal sovereign rights also protect custom and culture in the county and will work with the Tribe to protect these rights. The goals, objectives, and policy actions in this section provide a general framework to guide collaborative planning through active consultation on federal and state lands.

Harney County depends upon the continued multiple use of federal lands and maximizing the income from the assets and resources of state lands in Harney County. Harney County will fully participate in collaboration with federal and state agencies to coordinate land use policies governing all lands within the County. All planning and management actions shall be evaluated to ensure that economic sustainability of the County is maintained while protecting the environmental sustainability of our natural resources.
FEDERAL / COUNTY JURISDICTION IN LAND USE ISSUES

Recognizing the need for federal land management agencies to harmonize their planning process with counties, federal laws, such as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and National Forest Management Act (NFMA), among others, requires federal agencies to engage Counties in their planning process with local governments and work to reach consistency with county plans. Consistency within all plans is the local objective for federal, state, and local agencies within the County.

In the Federal Land Management and Policy Act at 202(c) (9), Congress set forth four specific duties the federal agency must carry out in order to coordinate the federal planning and management activities with local governments. These are: (1) keep apprised of local plans; (2) give consideration to local plans; (3) assist in resolving inconsistencies between federal and non-federal plans; (4) provide the opportunity and work with local governments to ensure there is meaningful involvement early in the federal planning process. Federal land management agencies are required to stay apprised of other land management plans, and to the extent practical, develop plans that are compatible with other local plans. The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (USC 668dd) governs the operation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge.

In order to help federal and state agencies understand Harney County’s plans, programs, and policies, and incorporate these into their own planning processes, this document has been developed with the participation of local representatives of the federal and state resource agencies. While the policies and goals set forth herein have been developed in consultation with our federal and state partners, the policies are adopted by the officials of Harney County and therefore are considered the local standards that must be considered for all lands within the county. In the spirit of collaboration Harney County shall continue to invite our federal and state partners to participate in the harmonious planning and implementation of activities between the county and federal and state agencies.

In addition to local coordination and collaboration activities, Harney County may participate in the preparation of the environmental analysis of a plan, regulation, or other programs under the National Environmental Policy Act, as a cooperating agency. The County’s role in this process is to utilize their expertise to help identify the issues that should be analyzed and develop alternatives for the analysis in cooperation with other federal and state agencies, and other affected local governments. Federal agencies will work with the County to develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (42 U.S.C. § 4332 (E).

The County will also participate in federal agency collaboration processes, where an inclusive group of stakeholders working together develop plans with the agencies from scoping through completion of the plan to provide detailed information about local land conditions. The collaborative process can help to reduce conflicts commonly
encountered in land management planning and allow Federal agencies, local
governments develop plans that minimize those conflicts. NEPA is an open inclusive
process that allows Harney County, as the duly elected representatives of the affected
citizens, to participate at every level of review.

Additionally, federal law requires federal agencies to consider the impacts of actions
authorized by these agencies on the natural environment, social structure, and economy
of counties.

Harney County and its state and federal partners will engage in a collaborative approach
to local land use issues on both a programmatic and project level by participating in the
following manner.

COORDINATION

• As appropriate, the County will hold monthly meetings with our federal and state
agencies to inform these organizations of issues affecting relevant county policy
specifically concerning proposed land use actions

• When necessary to ensure local solutions are considered, the County will
convene local community partners and our state and federal partners to offer site
specific expertise on matters of concern. Where proposed actions by state and
federal partners may impact the economic sustainability thresholds for the
County, the parties will work together to formulate local solutions that do not put
the local economy into a less than self-sustaining condition.

COOPERATING AGENCY

• It is the policy of Harney County to participate early in all processes conducted by
our federal and state partners that are intended to fulfill cooperating agency
responsibilities. The partners will engage in a local dialogue to consider local
practical expertise and solutions on site-specific actions within the County.

• Harney County and its state and federal partners will work together to participate
in developing document language which is intended to define local conditions
and proposed actions on public lands in Harney County.

CONSISTENCY REVIEW

• Harney County and its state and federal partners shall review all documents that
might impact local land-use practices to determine consistency with the County
plan.

• Harney County and its state and federal partners shall provide specific
recommendations for plans and projects proposed by our federal and state

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partners to ensure that local custom and culture is considered in making a final determination. These recommendations shall be presented in an in-person meeting.

- Harney County and its state and federal partners will provide formal written notice of findings to each party when either party has determined that the proposed actions are inconsistent with our local plans or when local options are not fully considered in making a final recommendation for action. These written notices should also be presented in an in-person meeting.

Harney County realizes there are multiple tools available to work with Federal and State agencies. Our intent with this document is to work with agencies to better the social, economic and ecological well-being of our rural communities. Harney County looks forward to meaningful communication, early and often, with State and Federal agencies.

HARNEY COUNTY CUSTOM and CULTURE

The term “custom and culture” is an integral part of the County’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Harney County Comprehensive Plan is designed to define and enhance the County’s historic position concerning all lands (including all public lands) within the Harney County.

Because many “custom and culture” practices pre-date federal, state and local land use plans, it is critical that a collaborative effort occur between all resource agencies to ensure that historic practices, which sustain the culture and customs of the county, are considered in all future land use decisions. Harney County has an overarching goal of ensuring that our land use practices are environmentally and economically sustainable and recognize that local citizens have insights and experiences that can inform all land use decisions. Therefore, as part of the custom and culture of Harney County, we believe that it is absolutely imperative that local input is sought and considered in all local land use decisions regardless of the legal jurisdiction.

Federal land use planning laws and regulations require all federal agencies to consider the impacts from proposed actions on the social structure and economy of an affected area. Harney County has accepted the term “custom and culture” in the context of land use planning as synonymous with social structure and economy.

In land use planning, Harney County defines culture as:

“The body of customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits constituting traditions of a group(s) that includes knowledge, belief, morals, law, customs, opinions, religion, superstition, art, etc.”

Adding the term “custom” in the context of comprehensive land use planning, refers to land uses and practices that have acquired the force of tacit and common consent. This essentially means that certain land uses have historically helped shape the values, attitudes, and traditions of County residents by providing economically sustainable uses,
recreation, and/or providing places to live. These traditional land uses, which help to define the “custom and culture” of Harney County, are still active today. They include:

- Grazing/ranching;
- Agriculture;
- Recreation.
- Forest/ Timber
- Mineral production

In order to maintain the “custom and culture” of Harney County and protect property rights, the County will be involved in land use decisions regarding public lands. The goals, objectives, and implementation policies listed below are intended to help Harney County direct this involvement. In compliance with federal and state law, all federal and state agencies are directed to use this Comprehensive Plan as a guide in the coordination of planning for management of federal and state trust lands within the geographical boundaries of Harney County.

PUBLIC LANDS GOALS, OBJECTIVES, and POLICY ACTIONS

The goals, objectives, and policy actions of Harney County are set forth to ensure the long-term welfare of the County and its citizens. These should be considered and incorporated where appropriate into the planning and management activities of all entities working within the County.

Policy 1: Preserve and protect the County’s “custom and culture” by ensuring that these factors are fully considered and incorporated into all federal, state, and local land use decisions. It is the goal of Harney County to preserve historic, cultural and uses of our natural resources to sustain the way of life established within the county. These uses and practices have been a critical element of our local economy, and quality of life. Furthermore, Harney County recognizes that the Burns Paiute Tribe has a similar long-term interest in continuing their usual and historic places for spiritual, cultural and consumptive practices.

Policy Action 1.a: Coordinate with the federal and state agencies to ensure land use policies and plans are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and other County land use policies.

Policy Action1.b: The current and future potential designation of federal and/or state wilderness, park, recreational, or other specially designated areas in Harney County shall be compatible with the custom, culture, and economic stability of the County. It is recognized that local federal and state land managers do not always have control over management decisions, which are occasionally designed and dictated by Congress or the Oregon legislature. Federal and state land managers as part of their local consultation shall seek consistency, but when appropriate will note that a decision that does not
conform to the custom and culture and economic stability of Harney County shall be recorded as such and conveyed to higher authorities that such a decision is not consistent with the Harney County Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Policy Action 1.c: Harney County shall coordinate with federal and state agencies on all efforts to change current land use classifications. These include, but are not limited to, Wilderness Study Areas, Wilderness, National Monuments, Historical Site recommendations, etc. This is necessary to ensure that prior to any final federal, state, or local agency decision making special land use designations, conflicts with the agencies proposed action and the County’s plans, policies and programs are resolved. Special land use designations can restrict access and use of lands that are necessary to ensure a robust economy providing the means for the County to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens.

Policy Action 1d: Maintain our taxable land base.

Policy Action 1e: For the purpose of ensuring quality information is utilized in all planning and management activities, federal, state, and Harney County land use data should be jointly shared either informally, or through existing and future Memorandums of Understanding.

Policy Action 1f: Harney County shall transmit a copy of the adopted Comprehensive Plan and any future revisions or amendments to all state and federal agencies with management responsibilities within the geographic boundaries of Harney County.

Policy Action 1q: All agencies are to communicate continuously with the County Court ensuring early notice and discussion of all issues that may impact the County for the purpose of resolving conflicts prior to and throughout the public participation process.

Policy Action 1h: Being fully apprised of the County’s positions, federal and state agencies shall inform the Harney County Court of any potential conflicts with their plans, programs or policies, early in the process and invite the County to participate in mitigating conflicts with the local plan prior to public release of the proposed plans, programs and policies. Policy Action 1i: The Harney County Court will work with the federal and state agencies to resolve conflicts between the planning authorities, but shall not approve or endorse any plans, programs, or policies that harm the health, safety, or welfare of the County.

Policy Action 1j: All land and resource inventory processes conducted within the political boundaries of the County that results in inventories that may elicit an endangered species listing (ESA) shall be immediately conveyed to the Harney County Court prior to taking final local action on this matter.

Policy 2: The goal of Harney County is to preserve and protect the diversity and vitality of the grass-producing lands of the County. This goal addresses all rangeland, pasture, native meadows, flood irrigated meadows, and all variations thereof.
Policy Action 2a: Because livestock grazing is a vital industry that supports County Services and eco-systems, grazing shall continue to be a valid use on public lands. Any new restrictions placed on lands that change the use or specific designation for said lands shall not reduce the levels of grazing or increase the grazing expense on the producer, consistent with the ecological potential of the resources.

Policy 3: The goal of Harney County is to support customary uses of public lands that promote the sense of open spaces in the county. The historic pattern of agricultural and forest use of the land shall be supported and sustained as part of the overall economic vitality of the county. New designations that change public usage criteria for these lands and that results in creating barriers to customary and historic uses shall be considered to be in non-conformance with the County plans.

Policy Action 3a: Prior to the publication of a proposed designation of areas of concern that could change management practices in the Federal Register, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) / United States Forest Service (USFS) shall coordinate with the Harney County Court on the proposal to determine if new designation or change in designation creates any conflicts with the Counties plan. Specifically, the agency shall:

1. Discuss with the County the “relevance” and “importance” of the area the agency has determined gives rise to the special designation.

2. Upon request, provide to the County the Agency’s review under the Information Quality Act (44 U.S.C. §3516) all studies and data used to determine certain activities are harmful to the restricted area.

Policy Action 3b: When a new land designation, exchange, or change in management is being considered by state or federal entities within the County’s jurisdiction, the agencies shall coordinate with the County to determine if the change will cause any unresolved conflicts with the County’s interests and discuss options to resolve those conflicts.

Policy Action 3c: Federal and state agencies shall make available all relevant land use data to the County to ensure harmonious planning between the entities, and provide the County Commissioners with documentation of all impact analyses, including socioeconomic impacts.

Policy Action 3d: An open access designation on public lands shall be maintained to ensure traditional land uses are continued in order to protect the custom and culture of Harney County.

Policy 4: It is the goal of Harney County to manage our natural habitat in a manner that prevents, eliminates or reduces the occurrence of invasive and noxious species and their impacts on the environment of the County.

Policy Action 4a: To rely on the Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center and the Harney County Weed Control Board to advise the Harney County Commissioners on how to prevent economic disruption and harm to the rangeland-based livestock production.
Policy Action 4b: Harney County shall support the policies and practices set forth in State Statutes that establish local weed control systems and district that support local control of all noxious weeds.

Policy Action 4c: The local responsible weed management agencies shall report on an annual basis to the County Court the effectiveness of treatment techniques by acreage.

Policy 5: Harney County supports the principles of the Community Wildfire Management Plan. Furthermore, Harney County will support practices which reduce the risk of wildfire. These management practices include but are not limited to establishments of fire breaks, sustainable fuels reduction strategies (e.g. grazing, timber thinning, prescribed fire, etc.) and such other direct techniques that preserves natural resources while reducing fire risks.

Policy Action 5a: Harney County relies on recreational opportunities as one part of the local economy. It is recognized that agricultural practices support recreational attributes such as open space, wildlife corridors, food resources for wildlife and forage. Harney County provides protection for public safety on all land within Harney County, including federal and state trust lands and therefore require ongoing access to all lands within the County.

Policy Action 5b: To ensure full use and access to the public lands within Harney County for appropriate public use and the public’s safety.

Policy 6: Harney County recognizes that sustainable populations of game and non-game wildlife are vital to the economy, culture, and custom of the county. Agricultural lands are vital to wildlife sustainability and the agencies will work together to prevent damage to private or public lands from wild animals on federal and state trust lands relative to grazing or other traditional land uses vital to the economy of Harney County.

Policy Action 6.a: Harney County supports meeting targeted wildlife populations levels through collaborative management techniques.

Policy Action 6.b: Where an introduced species (e.g. wolves, etc.) have been established in Harney County, the County shall advocate for compensation for private land owners for any losses associated with the introduced species.

Policy Action 6.c: Federal and state trust land and wildlife management and enforcement agencies shall plan with Harney County on matters regarding wildlife and resources. The Harney County Court and/or their designee shall review and comment on all plans and proposals prior to finalization or initiation of actions by federal and state agencies.
Policy 7: Provide proper stewardship of the County’s natural resources that respects the custom and culture, protects the economic vitality, and quality of life of Harney County.

Policy Action 7.a: To ensure that public lands continue to be managed under the multiple use concept to provide opportunities for all users of public lands in accordance with the County’s custom and culture.

Policy 8: Harney County supports the sustainable use of Forest resources on public lands to preserve and provide a perpetual supply of timber and other forest products for the use of all citizens. Particular interest is in providing sustainable forest products for the statewide building industry, local home heating needs, sustainable customary gathering of forest products for personal consumption and recreational uses. Furthermore, sustainable commercial timber harvest can and should be utilized to promote overall forest health, protect water resources, maximize forest fire control, enhance wildlife habitat, and sustain forage for domestic animals.

Policy Action 8a: To ensure that forests are managed to sustain long-term forest health while providing a sustainable local supply of forest products for manufacture, consumption and aesthetic enjoyment of the public.

Policy Action 8b: To support customary and historic uses in a sustainable manner that ensures future generations a consistent supply of forest products as a sustainable part of the local economy.

Policy Action 8c: To support forest management practices that include commercial harvest that will reduce wildfires and, in the event of a catastrophic wildfire event, captures the full commodity value of burned timber in a timely manner which allows local use and sustains local manufacturing of wood products. Available sale quantity at a minimum shall equal long term sustained yields in our forests.

Policy Action 8d: To support local participation in Forest Management Plans which recognizes the historic and customary uses of Harney County in our forests. Harney County does not support designations which reduce the size of the “general forest designation”.

Policy Action 8e: To support the objectives of 36 C.F.R. 212.53 that National Forest System Lands be managed in a manner that provides for the “stabilization of communities” in its decision-making processes. Furthermore, Harney County believes that stabilization can only occur if the culture, custom and historic uses are sustained.

Policy Action 8f: It is the objective of Harney County to avoid inconsistencies in federal and state planning efforts by engaging in early consultation, supporting compromises that sustain historic culture and custom while ensuring our forests are utilized in a long-term sustainable economic and environmental manner.
Policy Action 8g: To support management strategies and practices and accelerates restoration of damaged forests through the collaborative efforts of local, state and federal agencies.

Policy Action 8h: To support the retention of forest infrastructure (e.g. roads, campgrounds, trails, water holes, etc.) that has been paid for by past generations in a manner that does not require recreating the same infrastructure at public expense every generation or so. Management practices should preserve the infrastructure value invested in the forest for the benefit of all future generations.

Policy 9: Harney County supports water management practices that enhances natural storage, recharge of groundwater and habitat enhancement. Furthermore, Harney County recognizes that agricultural practices support wildlife and livestock through livestock wells, flood irrigation, man-made seasonal wetlands and through participation in the Harney Basin Plan and the Agricultural Water Quality Plan.

Policy Action 9a: Harney County supports a wetlands policy that includes only those areas that actually function as wetlands.

Policy Action 9b: Lands designated as agricultural land by the USDA prior to 1985 should not be required to be restored to conditions that existed prior to agricultural use. Harney County may, at the option of the County Court, be the lead agency in designating wetlands. Wetlands are defined as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.” (P.9-10 Oregon Wetland Conservation Strategy-ODSL 1995)

Policy Action 9c: Harney County shall participate fully as allowed by law in all processes for the purpose of identifying and classifying species of special status that may impact the County. This includes the formulation of plans for the recovery of any federal or state listed threatened or endangered species, including any proposed introduction or re-introduction of a species by artificial actions of government agencies or personnel.

1. The best available science is to be utilized by all agencies when determining the status of a species or condition of resources. All scientific data shall be held to the standard of review required by the Information Quality Act (44 U.S.C. §3516). Any study, data, or other scientific document that does not meet this standard shall not be used to support or deny a finding that leads to the federal or state protection of a species.

2. Critical habitat designations must take local socioeconomic impacts into account. Areas may be excluded as critical habitat based upon economic impacts unless the failure to designate the area as critical habitat would result in extinction of the
species. (USFS; since Federal Agencies only have to comply with CH designation- not needed)

Policy Action 9.d: Harney County shall promote and facilitate public and private recreational opportunities compatible with local 'custom and culture'.

Policy 10: Mineral Resources – Protect the continued use of mineral resources as a vital aspect of Harney County’s custom and culture and economy.

Policy Action 10.a: Harney County shall promote responsible mineral resource development and management in the County.

Policy Action 10.b: Harney County shall review all decisions made by federal and state agencies concerning the extractive industries that have an economic impact on the citizens of Harney County.

Policy 11: Recreational Trails – Harney County supports the maintenance of existing federal, state and locally designated recreational trails. Any proposed new trails which rely on county roadways, encroachment on private properties or fails to apply for trail development under the county process shall be deemed to be noncompliant with the County Plan. Proposed trails designated by federal and state agencies will coordinate with Harney County prior to the development of any new trail.

Policy Action 11a: All inventory and associated management actions of the trails and roads in Harney County by federal and state agencies shall be coordinated with the County.

1. The Harney County Court and the County Sherriff’s office shall be notified prior to the initiation of the inventory work, as to who has been retained, and the location and schedule for the work to be performed.

Policy Action 11b: A request for a new trail or trail system which relies on private or non-federal property under County jurisdiction as part of the trail system shall apply for approval from the County Planning Commission. Trail requests shall be addressed as a conditional use permit process under the County land use codes.

Policy 12: Energy Development – Harney County supports the development of renewable energy facilities as part of a sustainable economic development program. Requests for energy development projects within the County shall undergo review and notice requirements as set forth in the Harney County Comprehensive plan.

Policy Action 12a: A request for an energy facility within Harney County shall be subject to review from the County Planning Commission. A proposal for siting an energy facility on public lands shall be subject to County review and approval as part of the overall permitting process for any such facility.

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Policy Action 12b: Harney County shall work with federal and state land managers to identify suitable locations for such facilities in the County and shall coordinate zoning designations on the County Comprehensive Plan map to reflect the appropriate areas for such facilities.

Policy 13: Wild Horses – Harney County supports active management of wild horses in order to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance.

Policy Action 13a: Harney County supports the proactive management of feral horses within the Herd Management Areas (HMA) in the County at appropriate management levels (AML) as identified in the current Resource Management Plan.

Policy Action 13b: Wild (feral) Horses with the HMAs should be managed for a viable, healthy herd that will result in the thriving natural ecological balance, including the standards and guidelines for rangeland health and multiple-use relationship in that area as required by the Act.

Policy Action 13c: The Federal responsible agency will remove wild horses from private lands when notified of their presence as defined through the WFRHB Act and will take steps to ensure that the removed horses do not return to private lands.

Policy Action 13d: Federal and State agencies shall ensure that monitoring plans accurately identify the causal factors in resource changes (e.g. evaluate wild horse, livestock and wildlife impacts separately) to ensure that any proposed action supports sustainable eco-system management.

Policy Action 13e: Where wild horses are determined to be the cause of eco-system damage and AUM livestock grazing reductions have occurred as a result, grazing reductions shall be removed as soon as sustainable resources have recovered.

Policy 14: Sensitive Species/ Species of Concern, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species – Harney County recognizes that sustainable populations of wildlife are a vital element in the balance of land uses that support the economy, culture, and custom of the county.

Policy Action 14a: Reintroduction of ESA listed species should incorporate an analysis of public and private land use concerns, conflicts and considerations and be introduced initially as a non-essential or experimental population.

Policy Action 14b: Harney County supports participation as cooperating agencies in all decisions and proposed actions that affect the deliberations regarding sensitive, threatened or endangered species; the reintroduction of listed species; habitat conservation plans; conservation agreements or plans; and candidate conservation agreements.
Policy Action 14c: Federal and State agencies shall make available legal descriptions of all considered and/or designated critical habitat areas within Harney County.

Policy Action 14d: Harney County supports the delisting of any species that is not supported by current data or where data has been found to be insufficient to meet the minimum criteria as set for in the Endangered Species Act. Harney County supports a landscape wide analysis to determine if climate change and/or natural seasonal habitat changes are causational factors that cannot be addressed by focusing on management of a single species.

Policy Action 14e: Harney County shall request a full analysis of the economic impacts on all proposed federal and state actions that seek to establish new critical habitat designations or species management plans prior to imposing these new designations.

Policy Action 14f: Harney County supports the cooperation between Federal and State agencies with local landowners to reduce the risk of ESA listings prior to seeking such designations.

Policy Action 14g: Harney County supports the development of local solutions to prevent ESA listings by the development of habitat management plans, conservation plans, and the development of conservation plans with federal and state assurances for any species of concern.

Policy Action 14h: Harney County supports the continued use of existing valid permits and leases on public lands with listed species where recognized local management plans are being implemented to demonstrate effectiveness in supporting the listed species.