

CZ0541 - LTR "HOSTS OF MORDOR" PRECON UPGRADE GUIDE

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CLAP AND SLATE

- 1) INTRO LADEE AND RACHEL

@Brttnymchlle - @wachelreeks - @commandcast

Lord of the Rings is here! It's time for our upgrade guide for "Hosts of Mordor," the Grixis (blue, red, black) bad guy Commander precon deck. We've gonna go over the STATS and suggest 10 cards to add and 10 to take out! BUT FIRST:

****CARD KINGDOM** **ULTRAPRO #1** **PATREON: BECKY WHEELER****

- 2) MAIN TOPIC: **"HOSTS OF MORDOR" PRECON - BUDGET UPGRADE GUIDE**

The rules: 10 cards in, 10 cards out. Total budget of \$50. We'll leave the mana base as-is.

NEW COMMANDERS

SAURON, LORD OF THE RINGS (primary commander)

- *This is a very expensive Commander for a one time reanimation effect. The Ring Tempts You is not powerful enough to justify this mana value in the Command Zone. Also, a Commander an opponent controls dying is not something that just happens. It's something you need to trigger on your own basically. On the other hand... 9/9 trample is big.*

SARUMAN, THE WHITE HAND (secondary commanders)

- *This is a much more efficient, much more reliable Commander. It bends the deck more around instants and sorceries and building up a huge orc army, but the deck is able to support that fairly well. The fact that it's 4 mana value just makes it a much more playable commander.*

"HOSTS OF MORDOR" DECK STATS

- Ramp - 13
- Card Draw - 13
- Single Target Interaction - 15
- Wipes - 5
- Lands - 38

- Amass - 8
- Reanimation - 6
- Reanimation Targets - 14
- Self Mill - 8
- Spells Payoffs - 6

WHO SHOULD YOU RUN AS THE COMMANDER?

Saruman, the White Hand

REPRINT VALUE

This only takes into account the value of the reprints (54) NOT the new cards.

Total Reprint Value is \$124.25

(Average Reprint Value)

Commander 2020 Ikorla - Average Reprint Value \$96

Commander 2021 Strixhaven - Average Reprint Value \$88

Commander 2021 Forgotten Realms - Average Reprint Value \$115

Kamigawa Neon Dynasty - Average Reprint Value \$72.89

NOTABLE REPRINTS (all cards worth MORE than \$2)

7 card that is \$5 or more, and 8 cards between \$2 and \$5

\$5 OR MORE (there is 7)

- Reanimate \$16.00
- Treasure Nabber \$16.00
- Scourge of the Throne \$14.00
- Living Death \$6.50
- Anger \$6.50
- Drowned Catacomb \$6.00
- Underground River \$5.50

\$2 TO \$5 (there are 8)

- Blasphemous Act \$4.50
- Dragonskull Summit \$4.50
- Sulfurous Springs \$4.50

- Sulfur Falls \$3.50
- Basalt Monolith \$3.50
- Arcane Denial \$3.00
- Notion Thief \$2.75
- Sol Ring \$2.50

**NOTE* Every card in all of these decks is “in the world” of Lord of the Rings. They didn’t include a single card in any of these decks that has its old/regular Magic art from before. If it’s a reprint, it’s new artwork in the world of Lord of the Rings.*

BEST CARDS IN THE DECK (*denotes a reprint)

- **Reanimate**
It doesn’t get better than reanimate. You’ve got lots of fatties to recur and you can’t beat that mana value.
- **Saruman, the White Hand**
Saruman does it all in this deck. You really just want him on board to keep the value rolling.

MIDROLL BREAK

Quick discussion about our evaluation of the deck right out-of-the-box and what the goal of the adds/subtractions were going into the “cards to add” section:

CARDS TO ADD

(remember: our total budget is around \$50 for this exercise)

AMASS

- **Angrath, Captain of Chaos \$0.25**
Some extra amass and some evasion for your big orc army
- **Widespread Brutality \$0.50**
Solid board wipe that leaves you with a big thing.
- **Maskwood Nexus \$3.50**
Your commander now gives all your creatures Ward 2, but more importantly, everything is Armies!

INSTANT & SORCERY

- **Archmage Emeritus \$5.00**
Just good draw
- **Wizards of Thay \$1.50**
The deck has a lot of sorceries, let’s speed them up and make them cost a little less
- **Primal Amulet \$13.00**
Some solid ramp and a little extra value for all the instants and sorceries

- **Anhelo, the Painter \$1.00**

Note: You can't sac the one you make from casting, not there yet, but still good!

- **Jin-Gitaxias, Progress Tyrant \$6.00**

Perfect for a villain deck, but also copies your big scary instants and sorceries

- **Lier, Disciple of the Drowned \$7.00**

The deck has lots of creature recursion, but could use a bump in the instant and sorcery category

FINISHER

- **Syr Konrad, the Grim \$1.00**

You aren't sacrificing a TON of stuff but there is a fair amount of self mill.

Total = \$38.75

SPLURGE CARDS

- **Rise of the Dark Realms \$22.00**

A great finisher for a graveyard/instant and sorcery deck.

- **Rhystic Study \$45.00**

Can't beat it for card draw

CARDS TO TAKE OUT

- **Shiny Impetus**

Not actually removal and pretty slow ramp. Rather have an instant or sorcery in this slot

- **Basalt Monolith**

Expensive ramp that you can't take great advantage of.

- **Subjugate the Hobbits**

Expensive and only grabs small stuff? Card might be solid, but needs to prove itself.

- **Monstrosity of the Lake**

Expensive to kick this thing and pretty useless if you don't.

- **Sauron, Lord of the Rings**

We're taking the deck away from reanimator and more spellslinger.

- **Rampaging War Mammoth**

We're taking the deck away from reanimator and more spellslinger.

- **Inferno Titan**

We're taking the deck away from reanimator and more spellslinger.

- **Troll of Khazad-Dum**

We're taking the deck away from reanimator and more spellslinger.

- **Voracious Fell Beast**

We're taking the deck away from reanimator and more spellslinger.

- **Knollspine Dragon**

We're taking the deck away from reanimator and more spellslinger.

HOW THE DECK PLAYS

The deck out of the box wants to do a lot of things, but ultimately we want to cast instants and sorceries to Amass a Massive Orcs Army and then be able to recur big baddies out of the graveyard.

3) **TO THE LISTENERS**

What do you think of the “Hosts of Mordor” precon? Any cards we missed? Any cards we suggested to take out or add that you disagree with?

****CARD KINGDOM OUT** **ULTRA PRO #2****

4) **THE END STEP**

Something cool outside the world of Magic.

5) CLEAN-UP STEP

Big thanks to our amazing team here at The Command Zone! **Craig Blanchette, Damen Lenz; Arthur Meadowcroft; Manson Leung; Josh Murphy; Jake Boss; Jordan Pridgen; Sam Waldow; Gaurav Gulati; Jamie Block; Mitch Trafford; Evan Limberger; Gabriel Pozos; Megan Yip; Eric Lem; Josh Lee Kwai; and Jimmy Wong.**