

# Little Snake Field Office Resource Management Plan Revision

## Public Involvement

The Draft Little Snake Resource Management Plan Revision is the result of close coordination with the public and local government. Continued public involvement during the 90-day public comment period will help BLM produce the highest quality plan possible.

Public/cooperator involvement to date includes:

### Scoping

A 60-day “scoping period” was initiated in November 2004 in which the public and affected parties were encouraged to help BLM define the scope and issues to be addressed in the RMP revision. Nearly 100 people attended public scoping meetings in Steamboat Springs, Maybell and Craig. BLM received a total of 921 comment letters during scoping.

### Northwest Colorado Stewardship (NWCOS)

Because NWCOS is an independent, community-centered stewardship group that includes a diversity of public and government interests, BLM was able to involve the public in lands management at a level rarely achieved.

NWCOS was established in 2003 to foster a working relationship among diverse interests to provide meaningful input into federal land management. It includes more than 140 participants, including local citizens and political leaders, oil and gas interests, environmental and conservation advocates, motorcycle and off-highway vehicle interests, ranchers and farmers, BLM representatives, and other state and federal entities.

NWCOS provided consensus and individual input on the range of alternatives and the impact analysis in the Draft RMP. NWCOS met to discuss the Little Snake RMP 23 times between September 2004 and April 2006.

### Cooperating Agencies

BLM invited 12 government agencies with jurisdiction in the planning area or special expertise to become formal Cooperating Agencies on the Little Snake planning effort. Five agencies accepted BLM’s invitation: Moffat County, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Juniper Water Conservancy District, and the City of Steamboat Springs.

Two innovative approaches in the Draft RMP stem directly from working with the Cooperating Agencies: the highly restrictive approach to oil and gas development in the Vermillion Basin, and the incentive-based approach to limiting wildlife habitat fragmentation in sagebrush.

