

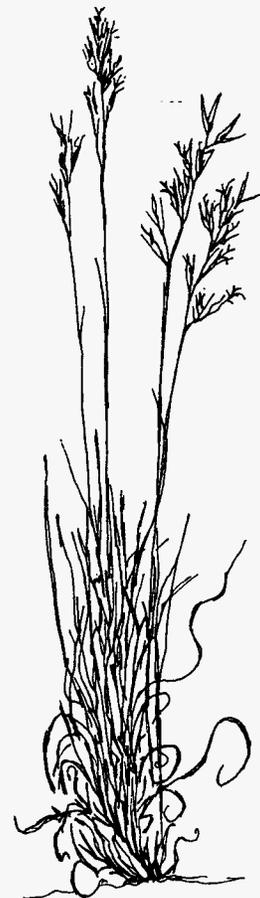
# West HiLine

Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Impact Statement

**DRAFT**

1987

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Lewistown District, Montana



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 LEWISTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE  
 80 Airport Road  
 Lewistown, Montana 59457-9699

Dear Reader:

This draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the West HiLine planning area of the Lewistown District, Montana, is presented for your review and comment. This document analyzes five alternatives for managing public surface and mineral lands in the West HiLine planning area. These alternatives are designed to resolve five management issues identified early in the planning process.

We welcome your comments on the content of this document. We are particularly interested in comments that address one or more of the following: (1) possible errors in the analysis; (2) new information that would have a bearing on the analysis; (3) a possible new alternative not within the range of alternatives presented here; and (4) needs for clarification. Specific comments will be the most useful.

We would appreciate your comments on the RMP/EIS by August 28, 1987. Questions or comments should be directed to Wayne Zinne, District Manager, Lewistown District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Airport Road, Lewistown, Montana 59457, (406) 538-7461.

Public meetings have been scheduled to allow individuals the opportunity to comment on the draft RMP/EIS. The meetings will be held at the following locations:

July 13, 1987	Havre	7:00 p.m.	Duck Inn, Olympic Room 1300 First Street
July 14, 1987	Great Falls	7:00 p.m.	Great Falls Public Library 301 2nd Ave. North
July 15, 1987	Shelby	7:00 p.m.	Marias River Coop 910 Roosevelt Hwy
July 16, 1987	Chester	7:00 p.m.	Liberty County Courthouse
July 20, 1987	Lewistown	7:00 p.m.	Lewistown BLM District Office 80 Airport Road
July 21, 1987	Fort Benton	7:00 p.m.	Emergency Operations Center 2610 N. Main Avenue (end of road)

All written and oral comments received during the 90-day comment period will be given equal consideration in the preparation of the final RMP/EIS scheduled for completion in January, 1988.

Please keep this copy of the draft document as portions of it may not be reprinted in the final. Copies of the final RMP/EIS will be sent to all those who provide comments on the draft or request a copy.

Thank you for participating in the planning process. Through your participation we can move together toward the common goal of improved public land management in the Lewistown District.

Sincerely,

Acting State Director

DRAFT

# West HiLine

Resource Management Plan  
Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared By

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

State Director  
Montana State Office

May 1987

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
LEWISTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE  
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA**

**WEST HILINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

This draft resource management plan/environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS) addresses future management options for approximately 626,098 surface acres and 1,328,014 subsurface acres in north central Montana. These lands are administered by the Bureau of Land Management through the Havre, Great Falls, Judith, and Phillips Resource Areas of the Lewistown District Office. Only small portions of the Judith and Phillips Resource Areas, related to recreation management of the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, are addressed in this RMP/EIS.

The plan focuses on management options to resolve these five issues: landownership adjustments; off-road vehicle designations; location of major lineal rights-of-way; identification and management of emphasis areas; and recreational management on the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River.

Four alternatives have been developed to provide management options for resolving the issues. The alternatives include Alternative A—Continuation of Existing Management (No Action); Alternative B—Emphasis of Consumptive Uses with Minimum Restrictions; Alternative C—Emphasis of Protection and Enhancement of Non-Consumptive Uses and; Alternative D—The Preferred Alternative reflecting a balance of Alternatives C and D.

The preferred alternative identifies 15,664 acres of land for disposal and 34,428 acres for exchange; limits ORV use on 303,917 acres and closes 5 acres to ORV use; identifies 136,745 acres as avoidance areas and 68,172 acres as exclusion areas for major lineal rights-of-way; designates the Kevin Rim, Sweet Grass Hills and the Cow Creek areas; and provides for future recreation developments within the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River while mitigating impacts to natural and cultural resources.