PREPARATION PLAN

BILLINGS FIELD OFFICE AND
POMPEYS PILLAR NATIONAL MONUMENT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared by
Billings Field Office
Bureau of Land Management

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RECOMMENDED:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Billings Field Office (BiFO) proposes to prepare Resource Management Plans for the Billings Field Office planning area and for Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM), hereafter referred to as the RMPs. Within these planning documents, the BLM will analyze the effects of proposed management decisions under one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The plans will be titled the Billings Resource Management Plan and the Pompeys Pillar National Monument Resource Management Plan.

Preparation of these RMPs will facilitate public understanding and provide consistent and integrated land use plan decisions for the jurisdictional area.

Land use decisions developed through the RMP process will be based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. However, not all lands may be available for all uses; some uses may be excluded on some lands to protect resource values either by law, regulation, or decision reached through the planning process. The RMPs will be prepared using the most current and best available information and science, and with public involvement. *Note:* BLM-administered lands will also be referred to as "public lands" throughout this document. The new RMPs will establish appropriate land uses and constraints to attain desired resource condition goals and objectives, as well as provide a framework to guide subsequent management decisions.

The land area to be covered under the Billings RMP-EIS is located in the south central part of the state in Carbon, Yellowstone, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Musselshell, Wheatland, Golden Valley, and portions of Big Horn County, Montana. The Billings RMP area comprises approximately 427,290 acres of federally managed surface and 906,084 acres of federal mineral estate. The RMP area also includes administration of 6,340 acres of public land inside the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in Big Horn County, Wyoming.

The lands to be covered under the Pompeys Pillar National Monument RMP were designated a national monument on January 17, 2001. Fifty-one acres of federally owned land was set apart and reserved as PPNM for the purpose of protecting the ethnographic, historic and archaeological values associated with the massive sandstone outcrop known as Pompeys Pillar. PPNM's management was added as an amendment to the Billings RMP-EIS in 2002.

Currently, land resources covered under the Billings RMP-EIS are managed under the 1984 Billings Resource Management Plan as amended (see Table 1): The Miles City District Oil and Gas RMP-EIS; Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Environmental Assessment and Proposed Amendment of the Billings, Powder River and South Dakota Resource Management Plans; Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States; Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental

Assessment for the Pompey's Pillar Interpretive Center; Off-Highway Vehicle Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and Portions of South Dakota; CBNG SEIS (Draft), Energy Corridor Draft PEIS, Wind Energy Development, Sundance Lodge and Four Dances Area Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment; and the Fire/Fuels Management Plan Environmental Assessment/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas. Other important documents that reflect decision making within the BiFO include the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Herd Management Plan and Revision and the Environmental Impact Statement for Wilderness in the Billings Resource Area.

Table 1.
Billings RMP and RMP Amendments

Document Title	Year
Billings RMP and EIS Final EIS ROD	 11/1983 09/1984
Final Environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States Final environmental Impact Statement Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States is currently in protest period ending July 30, 2007. The Record of Decision (ROD) will be signed by fall of 2007.	05/1991
Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (national amendment) Final EIS ROD	 05/1997 08/1997
Off-Highway Vehicle (State-wide amendment) Final EIS ROD	 01/2001 06/2003
Fire/Fuels Management Plan (State-wide amendment) EA DR	 07/2003 09/2003
Oil and Gas RMP / EIS Amendment Miles City District Final EIS ROD	 12/1992 02/1994
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Environmental Assessment and Proposed Amendment of the Billings, Powder River and South Dakota Resource Management Plans Final EA DR	 08/1998 03/1999
Pompey's Pillar Interpretive Center Environmental Assessment and Plan Amendment to the Billings Resource Management Plan Final EA DR	 06/2001 07/2002
Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for the Billings Resource Area Final EIS	 06/1988
Sundance Lodge and Four Dances Area Resource Management Plan Environmental Assessment/Amendment for the Billings Resource Management Plan Final EA DR	 04/2001 05/2002
Pryor Mountain Herd Management Area Plan (activity plan)	06/1984
Pryor Mountain Herd Management Area Plan (activity plan amendment)	07/1992
Wind Energy Development Programmatic EIS Plan Amendment to the Billings RMP	12/2005

1.2 BACKGROUND

Management issues and concerns in the planning areas cover nearly all resource programs and aspects of public land management. The RMPs will incorporate management decisions from the existing RMP and amendments if those decisions remain appropriate, and will provide up-dated decisions for the balance of the issues. The field office will prepare a single EIS to analyze the effects of the proposed management decisions.

A stand-alone BLM RMP is needed for Pompeys Pillar National Monument to protect the Monument's historic and archeological values in accordance with the establishing Presidential Proclamation. A revised RMP is also needed for the Billings Field Office. The purpose of these Proposed Plans/EIS is to develop the RMPs for the planning area that will guide future management of the Billings Field Office and Pompeys Pillar National Monument. BLM plans are expected to guide management for a period of 15-20 years and are evaluated at least every five years and are maintained, amended, and revised as needed.

The proposed RMPs-EIS will be completed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Bureau planning regulations (43 CFR 1601-1610) and the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and associated Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500). This process will provide for implementation of the National Fire Plan, Standards for Rangeland Health, and the Administration's policy on energy development, Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA) and the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The field office will use a collaborative approach to planning for the RMPs. All interested parties will have opportunities for input into the development of the RMPs-EIS. The RMPs will be prepared in close cooperation, consultation and collaboration with appropriate federal, state, tribal, county, and local governments and agencies.

The field office will also use a formal cooperating agency framework for governmental units – local, state, Tribal, or Federal – to engage in active collaboration with the BLM to prepare the RMPs. Cooperating agencies will be invited to share the responsibility with the BLM for organizing the planning process. Cooperating agency staff will be encouraged to participate fully with the BLM staff as members of the RMP9s)/EIS team.

1.3 PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION

The Billings RMP planning area is located entirely in the south central portion of Montana (see Figure 1). The Billings Field Office has surface management responsibility for approximately 427,290 acres of public land and 906,084 acres of federal mineral estate in eight counties. The RMP area also includes administration of 6,340 acres of public land inside the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in Big Horn County, Wyoming.

The planning area is bisected by several major rivers: the Bighorn, Yellowstone, Musselshell, Clarks Fork, Stillwater and Boulder and includes portions of several mountain ranges: the Little Snowies, Snowies, Belts, Crazies, Absarokas, Beartooths, and Pryors.

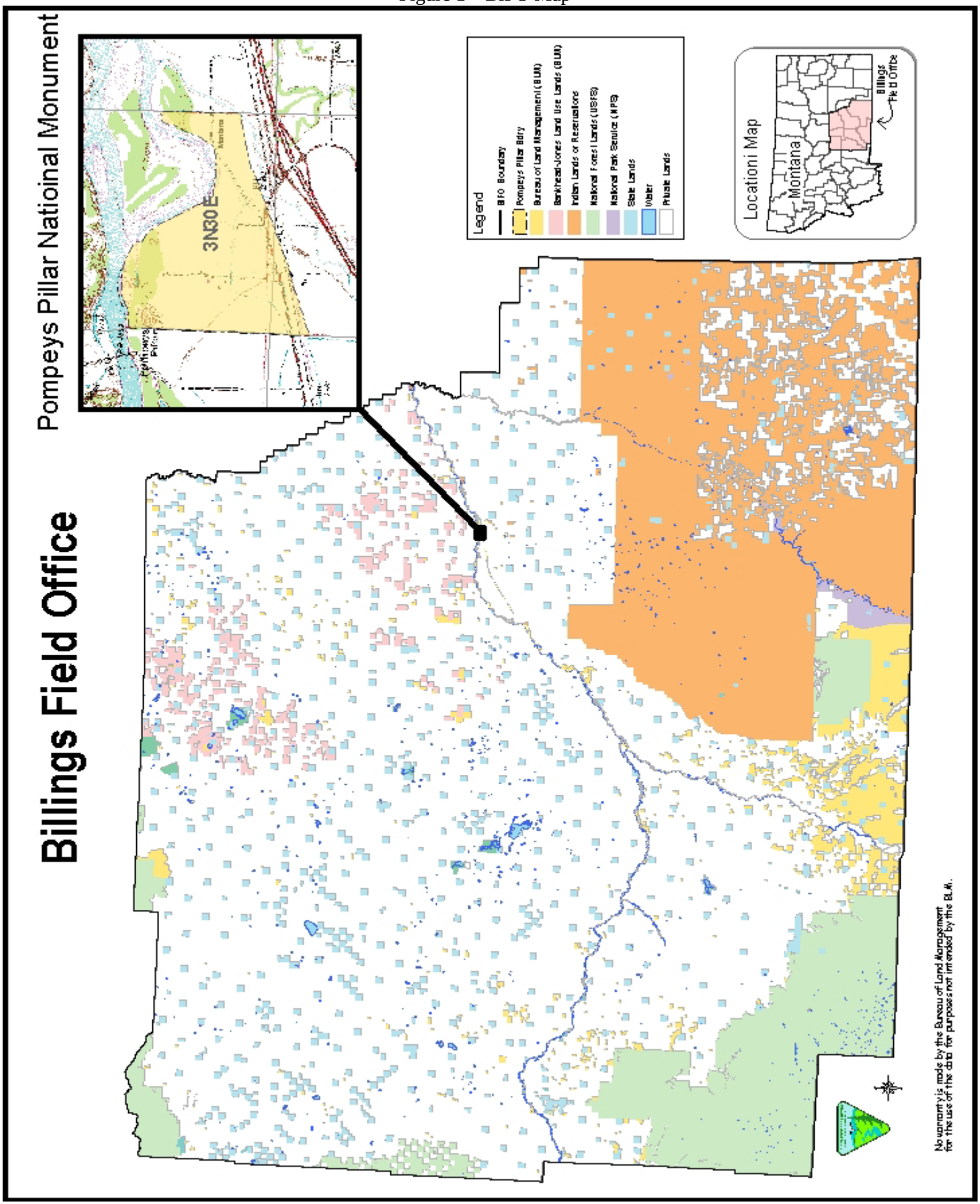
Currently, National Forest System lands administered by the Custer National Forest within the Billings RMP planning area are undergoing travel planning. Coordination between BLM, Forest Service, and other agencies will continue during the planning process, especially for those resources and issues that share administrative boundaries, such as fire management, roads and trails, rights-of-way and wild horse management.

The Billings RMP is for all public lands and federal minerals managed by the BLM Billings Field Office. The Billings RMP does not cover Forest Service-administered lands, but the BiFO does act as a cooperating agency for leasing of Federal mineral estate under lands administered by other Federal agencies within the planning area (including Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation). Other major federal land systems in the planning area include the Custer National Forest, Gallatin National Forest, Lewis and Clark National Forest, Crow Indian Reservation, National Wildlife Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area managed by the Park Service and U.S. Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation lands along the Yellowstone River.

The planning area is bordered on the north by the BLM Lewistown Field Office planning area; on the east by the BLM Miles City Field Office planning area; to the south by Wyoming; and on the west by the BLM Butte Field Office planning area.

Except for several contiguous blocks of land in Carbon and Musselshell Counties, most of the public lands in the planning area are scattered tracts, intermingled with private and State lands. Private lands are usually located along the drainage bottoms and more productive uplands. The BLM manages a variety of public land parcels in the area and as mentioned above, many of these parcels are widely scattered and often pose multiple resource management challenges. Lands managed by the Billings Field Office include public domain (lands which have never left federal ownership), acquired lands and/or mineral interests (lands and/or minerals which left federal ownership and were later returned to federal ownership through purchase, donation, or condemnation) and federal mineral estate (subsurface) lands beneath private or state lands or lands administered by other federal agencies. The Billings RMP will not make decisions for the surface or mineral estates of private or state-owned lands and minerals. The Billings RMP, however, will provide management decisions for split estate situations involving federal minerals overlain by private or state-owned surface.

Figure 1 – BiFO Map



2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

2.1 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose for the RMPs is to establish guidance, objectives, policies and adaptive management actions. The proposed RMPs will be comprehensive in nature and will discuss the current management situation, desired future conditions to be maintained or achieved, and management actions necessary to achieve objectives. The RMPs will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Following the completion of the RMP process, separate implementation and monitoring plans will be developed for the BiFO and PPNM.

The current Billings RMP guided BLM's management of public lands for the past 23 years. Resource conditions and public demands have changed sufficiently to warrant revisiting these decisions. The Billings five year plan evaluation (1990) recommended revision was not warranted and amendments should be utilized until the 15 year evaluation. The seventeen year Resource Management Plan Evaluation completed in November of 2001 indicated that the Billings RMP needed revision (see Past Land Use Plan Evaluation).

The purpose of the RMPs is to: (1) respond to resource conditions that have changed, (2) respond to new issues, and (3) prepare a comprehensive framework for managing PPNM and public lands administered by the Billings Field Office for the next 15 years. The public lands will be managed on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). These RMPs will result in the development of new land use planning decisions for those issues identified through public scoping and, where appropriate, will incorporate decisions from the existing Billings RMP and PPNM Plan Amendment.

The RMPs are needed to develop a comprehensive plan that restores or maintains resource conditions and considers the economic needs of local communities over the long term. The land use planning process is the key tool used by the BLM, in coordination with state and local government, tribes, land users and the interested public, to protect resources and provide for their use on public lands.

The EIS developed with the RMPs will include analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of all proposed management actions in the two RMPs. Future site-specific NEPA documents will be tiered to the RMPs-EIS, eliminating repetitive discussions of issues.

2.2 PREPARATION PLAN

The Preparation Plan defines work that must be completed for this effort and provides a general blueprint for development of the RMPs-EIS**.** It is intended that the Preparation Plan be flexible since new issues and resource management considerations will be identified during the EIS process. The preparation plan is prepared in accordance with Washington Office

Instruction Memorandum No. 2001-038, *Development/Approval of Preparation Plans for New Planning Starts* and the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1.

The purpose of this Preparation Plan is to:

1. Identify anticipated planning issues and management concerns;

2. Identify preliminary planning criteria and outstanding questions that must be addressed to support management decisions;

3. Identify a standard document format (documents, maps, tables, figures, photographs, etc.) for the internal and external presentation of the process, information, and decisions, including presentation on the internet;

4. Identify information or data needed to resolve or address identified issues, management concerns, planning criteria and outstanding questions to perform the requisite analyses;

5. Identify available data, metadata and data collection/format standards employed, and provide an explanation of how the data support the plan itself, and how the data address the planning requirements and anticipated issues or outstanding questions;

6. Identify any known or anticipated data gaps and provide an explanation of why the data are needed to support the plan itself, how the data support the planning requirements and how the data address anticipated issues or outstanding questions;

7. Establish a data inventory and collection activity plan that is coordinated with other agencies, which includes data standards, work-month costs, staffing and skill requirements, and estimated time-frames needed to establish an integrated, automated geospatial database for filling in data gaps;

8. Establish a communication process for direct communication with the public and to ensure greater public involvement in the planning process and to ensure wide distribution of relevant information;

9. Establish a work plan which identifies the staffing and technology needs to support public involvement and communication through use of the internet;

10. Identify the analytical process required to answer or address outstanding questions, issues or concerns;

11. Form a basis for statements of work for contracted work;

12. Help identify potential cooperators and interested publics; and

13. Help identify needed work-month costs, staffing, and operational dollars to complete the

land use planning process and issue a Record of Decision.

2.3 DECISIONS TO BE MADE

Land Use Plan decisions are broad-scale decisions that will guide future management actions within the Billings RMP planning area. Land use plan decisions for the RMPs will apply to natural, biological, mineral, and cultural resources. The land use planning process will integrate social science information which can include the economic, political, cultural, and social structure of communities, regions, and the Nation as a whole. Decisions will address resource uses and possible special designations, if identified during the land use planning process.

This Preparation Plan addresses planning actions in order to achieve the decision requirements outlined in Appendix C, Program-Specific and Resource-Specific Decision Guidance of the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook H-1601-1 and achieve adaptive management.

The planning process and the resultant RMPs will identify land use planning allocation decisions as well as implementation decisions. While most will be allocation decisions, implementation decisions such as travel management are equally as important.

The planning process will recognize ongoing programs, plans, and policies that are being implemented in the planning area by other land managers and interested governments. BLM will seek to be consistent with or complimentary to other management plans. Whenever possible, existing valid resource decisions and management prescriptions would be carried forward into the planning process.

2.4 PAST LAND USE PLAN EVALUATIONS

Five and seventeen year monitoring and evaluation reports have been completed on the Billings RMP since the RMP Record of Decision in 1984. The seventeen year evaluation indicated a plan revision was needed. The rationale for this included the following:

1. The current Billings RMP was completed in 1984, making the plan more than 15 years old. When initiated, RMPs were considered to be 10-15 year plans and revisions would probably be required at the end of that period.

2. Much of the data used to develop the plan are outdated and new inventories have been completed or are needed to address current issues.

3. New species have become candidates or have been listed as Threatened and Endangered species and updates and new consultation should be initiated.

4. Other issues have been identified since completion of the RMP that have not been addressed.

Specific recommendations of the evaluations from the reports are incorporated into this document and will be of value as we continue the planning process.

3.0 ANTICIPATED PLANNING ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

A **planning issue** is identified as a *matter of controversy or dispute over resource management activities or land use that is well defined or topically discrete and entails alternatives between which to choose*. **Management Concerns** are topics or points of dispute that involve a resource management activity or land use. While some concerns overlap issues, a management concern is generally more important to an individual or a few individuals, as opposed to a planning issue, which has more widespread point of conflict. However, certain resource values (e.g., cultural resources) will still play pivotal roles in developing alternatives and reaching decisions regarding the major issues.

The issues and management concerns presented below are preliminary and based on the best information known to date. Preparation of these RMPs will afford many opportunities for collaboration with local, state, federal and tribal governments as well as land management agencies, public interest groups, and public land users. As a result, these issues and concerns may need to be modified and perfected to reflect public comments and concerns raised during formal scoping.

BLM staff, individuals, and user groups have identified preliminary issues, which reflect conflicts and/or deficiencies with the existing Billings RMP. Some of these preliminary issues are included in the Notice of Intent that will be published in the Federal Register, announcing initiation of the planning and EIS scoping process. It is expected that additional issues will be identified during scoping.

The field office will prepare scoping reports identifying issues and concerns from the public after implementation of the land use planning process. Addressing management concerns in the RMPs-EIS helps ensure a comprehensive examination of BLM's land use management.

After public scoping, known issues, along with any additional issues raised by the public, will be placed in one of three categories:

Issues to be Resolved in the plans;
Issues Resolved through Policy or Administrative Action; or
Issues Beyond the Scope of the Plans.

3.1 PRELIMINARY PLANNING ISSUES

Issue 1: Vegetation Management.
Goal: Manage public lands to provide desired plant communities that support the integrity of the ecological processes (water cycle, energy cycle, and nutrient cycle) provided by the vegetative community within rangeland and forest.

This issue highlights concerns over management of particular vegetative resources and communities. Management constraints resulting from the RMPs will reflect appropriate levels of protection for public land values in relation to uses of vegetative resources. Vegetative communities can be altered and affected by fire, invasive species, herbivores (livestock and

wildlife), natural disasters (i.e. floods and drought), or human associated disturbances. All factors mentioned that may affect upland and riparian vegetation will be addressed in the RMPs.

The RMPs will identify site-specific vegetation management practices such as livestock grazing systems, vegetation treatments, or manipulation methods (including fuels and forest health treatments) to achieve desired plant communities, as well as integrated vegetation management techniques to rehabilitate weed infestations or otherwise control noxious and invasive weeds. Desired outcomes for vegetative resources include but are not limited to achieve a desired mix of vegetative types, structural stages, and landscape and riparian functions; and provide for native plant, fish, and wildlife habitats and livestock forage. The RMPs will identify areas of ecological importance and designate priority plant species and habitats, including special status species and populations of plant species recognized as significant for at least one factor such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age.

Northern mixed-grass, native prairie habitats will play a role in forming alternatives in the RMPs. Special attention will be given to greater sage-grouse conservation, as well as to other sagebrush and grassland dependant species (see the Management Plan and Conservation strategies for Greater Sage-Grouse in Montana, Final Draft 03-23-2004). Changes in native prairie habitat due to fragmentation, livestock grazing, and fire suppression will also be addressed.

Proper management of riparian systems is a key role of the BLM. The Clean Water Act and the BLM Standards for Rangeland Health require inventory and monitoring of riparian areas, wetlands, streams and rivers on public land. Identification and correction of problems that are adversely affecting the functioning of these systems is required during land use planning.

Forest ecosystem health will be emphasized in management decisions regarding forest resources. For public lands that are immediately adjacent to a Community at Risk, as identified in the January 4, 2001 Federal Register Notice, and those communities identified within Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), the primary forest health goal may be fuels reduction. Areas available for treatments will be identified in accordance with planning guidance. Treatment strategies and appropriate stipulations would be developed based on objectives and protection of other resource values or administrative considerations. Administrative consideration may emphasize biomass utilization.

Areas of noxious weed infestation and invasive plants are being mapped and will be used in development of the RMPs. This information will be reviewed during development of alternatives to determine if particular management constraints or allocations are necessary to prevent additional infestations. The RMPs will incorporate policies and strategies detailed in the "Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States EIS", 1991 (Fall 2007, the Record of Decision will be signed for the Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States EIS) and the Guidelines for Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds: Development of Weed Management Areas 2002, regarding weed control and eradication. The RMPs will also address additional practices or stipulations to be applied to all resource activities and uses, such as the use of certified weed free seed mixtures, feeds, and mulches for reclamation and restoration practices. The incorporation of the use of weed-free forage and the emphasis of restoration of disturbed areas, including specific seed mixes, will be included in all alternatives.

The upland and riparian vegetative communities provide an array of habitats for wildlife species. The RMPs may target the treatment of areas through grazing**,** mechanical options, fire, etc., to develop wildlife habitat. Concentration will be on ecoregion management to manage a multitude of wildlife species on Bureau lands.

In August 1997, the BLM issued a ROD for the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Within the ROD, five specific standards were incorporated into the process for evaluating rangeland health. These standards include upland health, riparian health, water quality, air quality and habitat (biodiversity). The ROD relating to rangeland health and the subsequent standards will be incorporated into the RMPs.

Issue 2: Wildlife and Fisheries Management
Goal: Manage public lands to conserve wildlife species, maintain or improve their habitats and control invasive species.

Where public lands ownership patterns are highly fragmented, protection and/or improvement of fish and wildlife habitats is more challenging. The key to maintaining fish and wildlife habitats is diverse, healthy vegetation and plant communities and good water quality, stream channel, and riparian conditions.

The RMPs will identify the range (current and potential) of wildlife habitat as well as habitat conditions in the planning area. Information on species occurrences and important seasonal habitats for selected species will also be documented. This information will provide the foundation on how wildlife habitat in the planning area should be managed. Instead of the single-species method of wildlife management, the RMPs will focus on a multi-species, ecosystem approach. Wildlife goals of the RMPs could include: protecting habitat for viable populations of all native species in the planning area, managing habitat at scales large enough to accommodate natural disturbances such as fire, wind and insects, providing diversity of vegetative communities, managing invasive species, and managing human uses in a manner that does not adversely affect that natural ecological processes. The RMPs will also identify objectives, allowable uses, and management actions, such as identifying those areas where restoration activities could restore or enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat.

Migratory birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Further emphasis on migratory birds was enacted by Executive Order 13186 which instructed, in part, federal agencies to consider migratory birds, especially species of concern, in any environmental review process. While most species of birds found within the planning area are protected under the MBTA, they will also be addressed in the plan.

Issue 3: Special Status Species
Goal: Manage public lands to conserve and recover threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species.

The RMPs will identify reasonable strategies to conserve and recover special status species in the planning areas in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service as required under the Endangered Species Act and Bureau Special Status Species policy. These include describing

existing and desired habitat and population conditions for major habitat types that support a wide variety of species; designating priority species and habitats, including Special Status Species (SSS); identifying actions and area-wide use restrictions needed to achieve desired population and habitat conditions while maintaining a thriving ecological balance and multiple use relationships. BiFO will use relevant recovery plans, conservation strategies, strategic plans, assessments, etc. to formulate these decisions. Streamlined consultation procedures detailed in the July 27, 1999, Memorandum of Agreement and subsequent implementation guidance for Section 7 consultations will be utilized to provide collaborative opportunities in the consultation process. Special status species include species listed, proposed for listing, or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act and sensitive species identified by the BLM (Appendix 4).

The majority of the animal species considered Sensitive by Montana/Dakotas BLM are found in habitats within the Billings Field Office planning area. Many of these species are associated with grassland and sagebrush habitats and the planning area contains a portion of their global breeding range. Sensitive species listed by the BLM in the planning area include, twenty-six bird species, three fish species, five reptile species, three amphibian species, five mammal species and 22 plant species (Appendix 4). The BLM sensitive species and habitat will be addressed in the RMPs. At this stage of the planning process, the greater sage grouse and groups of species (such as sage brush obligates) have been identified as issues

Issue 4: Commercial Uses
Goal: Determine what public lands will be available for commercial activities and how those activities will be managed. Manage energy development to provide for domestic energy production while protecting the integrity of other resources.

A wide variety of commercial activities are conducted on BLM managed lands in the planning area. Some of the primary uses are:

Livestock Grazing
Range Management staff presently administers 377 grazing allotments under leases or permits to 386 operators. The Billings RMP will review allocations and make adjustments as a result of interdisciplinary review and alternative formulation, taking into consideration the other resource values and allocations in the planning area. The need to improve range condition; range management options when forage resources are affected by drought, insects or fire; the need to maintain and improve wildlife habitat through the modification of livestock grazing (permitted use and season of use); recreational uses; and the need to maintain the economic stability of the local livestock industry will be consider in the Billings RMP. In addition, the Billings RMP will address concerns regarding rangeland health and maintenance of social and economic factors in the communities interspersed within the planning area to play roles in decisions regarding livestock grazing.

Rangeland improvement projects are used principally to improve or maintain vegetative conditions by manipulating livestock behavior. The Billings RMP will discuss range improvements and provide an opportunity for the public to provide guidance regarding any needed clarification or amendment of range improvement policy.

Various Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) have been implemented on some allotments listed as Improve (I) or Maintain (M) category to address resource and vegetation conditions. It

will identify allotment categories and if resource problems have been resolved, some allotments may move to a different category listing. The Billings RMP will also identify objectives to include allowable use parameters for upland and riparian habitats, season of livestock use, allocation of current permitted Animal Unit Months (AUMs), wildlife habitat criteria, functionality of AMPs (if existing), and maintenance of the plant community according to Ecological Site Descriptions. These objectives would be measured by monitoring efforts by the BLM. In addition, public lands that are not currently under a grazing lease or permit will be identified for grazing suitability (i.e. Exemption Area).

Energy Development

Oil and Gas Leasing

In keeping with the goals of the President's National Energy Policy to help promote dependable, affordable and environmentally sound production and distribution of energy for the future, the Billings RMP will determine what locations in the planning area will be open or closed to fluid mineral leasing and development. In addition, reasonable foreseeable development scenario (RFDS) prepared by the BLM will also be used during development of the Billings RMP. This and other information will be used in preparation of a reasonably foreseeable development scenario for the planning area.

The Billings RMP will be used to develop lease stipulations in the standard format including waivers, exception, and modification stipulations. As required in Appendix C of H-1601-1, - Land Use Planning Handbook, the Billings RMP will identify the oil and gas land use plan decisions, including the following:

1. Areas open to leasing, subject to standard lease terms.
2. Areas open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints.
3. Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints.
4. Areas closed to leasing.

For any areas that are closed to leasing in the final RMP, the Federal minerals may be leased if they are within the same spacing unit of a proposed well. A lease would be issued with a no surface or subsurface occupancy stipulation. No physical impacts would occur on the surface overlying the unleased Federal minerals. This would ensure the United States receives its share of royalties for production that drains Federal minerals.

The Billings RMP will also incorporate the existing analysis completed in the Final Statewide Oil & Gas EIS and Proposed Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plan (April 2003), and the 1994 Oil & Gas RMP/EIS Amendment to the Powder River, Billings, and South Dakota RMPs.

Consultation will occur during the Billings RMP process resulting in final decisions in the RMP and Record of Decision regarding oil and gas leasing and appropriate stipulations providing for protection of cultural and historic properties and compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. Washington Office IM No. 2005-003 states, "The RMP is the stage at which decisions are made concerning which areas are open or closed to leasing and what stipulations would be applied at lease issuance. The BLM must inform tribal officials of opportunities to comment on and participate in development of the BLM land use plans and request their views. The manager must consider comments provided by the tribal governments consulted, together with information on historic resources in general, in making decisions on the plan, including

decisions on areas to be made available for leasing and recommended leasing constraints, and must notify the consulted tribes of the relevant final plan decisions."

Coal Leasing
Previous leasing decisions for Federal coal will be brought forward in the Billings RMP. All the Federal coal which is minable by underground methods is suitable for further consideration for leasing or exchange pending further study. The BiFO will not apply coal unsuitability criteria to these lands until a site specific mine plan is filed, detailing the proposed location of surface facilities. Known areas in the planning area with coal development potential are located in the Bull Mountains and in southern Carbon County. No additional coal screening determinations or coal planning decisions are planned for the Billings RMP, unless public submissions of coal resource information or surface resource issues indicate a need to update these determinations. Areas of federal coal administered by the BiFO that would be mined by surface methods must be screened for potential coal development, unacceptable environmental conflicts, and significant surface owner opposition to mining according to the four coal screens (43 CFR 3420.1-4). The application of the screens includes consideration of all resources in the unsuitability criteria (43 CFR 3461) as well as other resources not specifically addressed by the criteria.

Wind Development
It is the BLM general policy, consistent with the National Energy Policy of 2001 and the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to encourage development of wind energy in acceptable areas. *The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Wind Energy Development on BLM-Administered Lands in the Western United States* was released in June 2005 and was included through an amendment to the Billings RMP in December 2005. It addressed the impacts of the future development of wind energy resources on public lands. The Programmatic EIS also addressed the establishment of policies and best management practices as mitigation measures for potential environmental impacts and addressed the amendment of individual BLM land use plans. The Billings RMP will determine what areas with the field office are open and/or closed to alternative energy development, including wind and solar.

<u>Forest Products</u>
Areas available for forest product removals will be identified in accordance with the planning guidance. Areas identified as Communities at Risk and additional areas within Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) may require modified treatments that remove more forest products in order to meet fuel reduction goals for that area. Forest product removal techniques and appropriate management stipulations would be implemented to protect or enhance other resource values. Contracted studies of timber vegetation type and structure and timber stand plots will be used to determine existing age, structure and composition of forest/woodland areas so that desired outcomes can be identified per the H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook.

<u>Right-of-Way Corridor Planning, Lands Authorizations and Public Access</u>
The Billings RMP will consider whether additional right-of-way corridors should be designated to minimize adverse environmental impacts and avoid proliferation of separate right-of-ways. Avoidance and exclusion areas will also be delineated, if necessary, based on interdisciplinary analysis of resource values and requirements for right-of-way uses and commercial activities. This will include considerations for future communication site uses. Necessary constraints and appropriate area-wide terms and conditions will also be developed for future authorizations that include collation of use to prevent unnecessary land disturbance.

The President's National Energy Policy will be reflected in the right-of-way corridors and in general areas where right-of-way authorizations are needed for the development and transportation of energy. Current environmental standards and good stewardship principles will be maintained.

Locatable and Saleable Minerals

There are currently two approved 3809 mine plans for bentonite and development potential for additional bentonite, gypsum, uranium, and limestone exists in some areas of the field office. These issues will be addressed in the plan. The Billings RMP will also address sand and gravel, and building and decorative stone sales in the planning area.

Commercial Special Recreation Permits

Commercial permits for outfitters and guides, vendors, and for special events are currently in effect on BLM lands in BiFO and PPNM. All activities will follow the guidelines in the handbook for Special Recreation Permits (H-2930).

Issue 5: Recreation Management

Goal: Determine how recreation will be managed in the planning area to provide for use and enjoyment of the public lands while protecting significant resource values and providing user safety.

Increased visitation creates user conflicts, possible resource damage, conflicts and an elevated demand for facilities, user information, and access. The RMPs should assist the BLM in providing access to the public lands and to ensure quality environmentally responsible outdoor recreational opportunities, experiences and benefits for the growing number of public land users. There are currently five special recreation management areas in the planning area. Managing recreation-tourism in the RMPs will follow IM 2006-060, Incorporating Benefits-Based Management within Recreation and Visitor Services Program Policy Changes. The Billings RMP will determine how many Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) will be identified within the planning area. Each SRMA will address: recreation management of resources, visitors, and facilities; recreation marketing (outreach, interpretation, environmental education and other visitor services; recreation monitoring (social and environmental); and recreation administration (regulatory; permits and fees, concessions). Remaining public lands within the planning area not identified as a SRMA may be designated as an Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA) and managed in a custodial manner with much less emphasis than on the SRMA described actions above. The BLM will follow the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and other bureau guidelines for the management of recreation fees in the developed recreation areas.

Issue 6: Travel Management and Access

Goal: Develop a planned and manageable travel and transportation network.

Prior to the publication of the RMPs, BiFO will identify road inventory needs to prepare travel management area plans and complete the transportation network. Major considerations in alternative development and estimation of the effects for travel and access management in the RMPs will include: public and administrative access needs (including legal access issues), oil

and gas development (including geophysical exploration), road densities, recreational activities, user conflicts, user safety, and resource values.

Access may be acquired through such tools as land exchanges, direct purchase of land or land rights, rights-of-ways, or easements or long-term land use agreements providing for public access. The RMPs will identify, in priority order, the areas of public land which need legal and/or physical access. Site specific locations and types of access (exclusive, non-exclusive or temporary) will normally be addressed at the project or activity planning stage.

Other travel management issues that may be considered in the Billings RMP include considering game retrieval by motorized means on BLM land, non-motorized trail development (horseback, foot, and mountain bikes), National Historic Trails (such as the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce Trails), the need to provide directional signs, information and education for people traveling across BLM administered land, development of a series of travel management road network maps for public use and law enforcement needs, and development of a transportation plan that identifies road repair, road rehabilitation, road construction, and maintenance standards for all roads maintained by the BLM within the planning areas.

The ROD for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas (June 2003) amended the Billings RMP to limit motorized travel to existing roads and trails for most lands under the RMP. The ROD also provides that the BLM will prioritize site specific travel planning areas by December 2003. This was completed in December 2003, but the Billings RMP will again consider the need to updated or re-prioritize the travel plans. Additionally, the Billings RMP will identify as much road inventory and travel planning decisions as practical, and consider designating additional intensive OHV use areas. The Billings RMP will also consider corridor planning as part of travel management.

Issue 7: Special Management Area Designation
Goal: Identify public lands that require special management attention to protect resource values.

Several supplemental studies and evaluations will be conducted as part of Billings RMP development to address whether certain places in the planning area qualify for special designation to protect unique or significant values. Subject to valid existing rights, the RMPs will avoid approval of proposed actions that could degrade the values of potential special designations. Proposed actions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and impacts to an area's values will be assessed. The standard for this review is the protection of the area's resources and values so that the area will not be disqualified from designation. Subject to valid existing rights, proposed actions that can not meet this standard should be postponed, relocated, mitigated, or denied until the planning for the area is completed.

<u>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</u>
The BiFO administers seven ACECs that were designated through the Billings RMP and the ACEC Environmental Assessment (EA 1997). These ACECs will be reviewed for validity. Additional nominations will be requested during Billings RMP formal scoping procedures so that evaluations can be completed as part of the comprehensive RMP process. These evaluations will determine relevance and importance and whether the area needs special management. An appendix to the draft Billings RMP will list all ACECs and whether or not the area meets the

criteria. Evaluation will include consultation with the Eastern Montana RAC. Rationale for areas that do not meet the criteria will also be provided. All nominations, which meet the ACEC criteria, will be studied further during development of the Billings RMP. The draft Billings RMP will list each proposed ACEC and the resource limitations, if any that would occur if the ACEC were designated. Public comment will be solicited as required under the planning regulations, and final ACEC designations will be made as part of the final Billings RMP and ROD.

On June 26, 2002 the National Wildlife Federation submitted a nomination to designate black-tailed prairie dog colonies on BLM-administered lands as ACECs. The Washington Office's (WO) evaluation concluded that the designation was not warranted at that time, but did not preclude the FOs from considering whether or not the ACEC designation is appropriate in localized areas. The appropriate time to make the determination is at the time of the Billings RMP.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

All rivers in the planning area will be reviewed for eligibility in accordance with the Wilderness Study Report Act and BLM Manual 8351.

Wilderness Considerations

The Billings RMP will not change the Wilderness Study Area or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics boundaries and recommendations. The Billings RMP will address management provisions that would be applied to Wilderness Study Area (WSA) lands released from wilderness consideration should Congress act during the life of the plan. Lands acquired after 1993 will be inventoried for resources and values including wilderness characteristics, as authorized in Section 201 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). In addition, consideration will be given to Wildland Fire Use (WFU) in these Wilderness Study Areas.

Other Administrative Designations

Development of the Billings RMP may result in identification of other administrative designations best made at the RMP level, such as Back Country Byways, Watchable Wildlife Sites or Intensive OHV areas. At present, there are no particular known candidates that would be considered in these categories.

Existing Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) will be reviewed and additional areas may be considered for designation. The RMPs will incorporate developed recreation and semi-developed sites, and will consider other types of areas, trails for example. The Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail may be removed from the SMRA designation as it is a recreation site, not a SRMA.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument

On January 17, 2001, Pompeys Pillar was designated a national monument under the authority of Section 2 of the Antiquities Act. Fifty-one acres of federally owned land were set apart and reserved as Pompeys Pillar National Monument for the purpose of protecting the ethnographic, historic and archaeological values associated with the massive sandstone outcrop known as Pompeys Pillar. Pompeys Pillar is located along the southern bank of the Yellowstone River approximately 30 miles east of Billings, Montana. Nearby communities include the towns of

Pompeys Pillar, Huntley, Shepherd and the city of Billings in Yellowstone County. Pompeys Pillar lies in a tourism corridor which provides easy access to Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Crow Indian Reservation, Little Bighorn National Battlefield, Beartooth Mountains and Yellowstone National Park. An interpretive center and related infrastructure has recently been completed at the Monument with funding from the BLM and Pompeys Pillar Historical Association.

Prior to being designated a National Monument, Pompeys Pillar was officially designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1965. In 1991, the BLM acquired the NHL and adjacent land, totaling 366 acres. The total area currently being managed as Pompeys Pillar is 474 acres; the additional 107 acres being an adjacent island in the Yellowstone River that is also under BLM administration. In 1996, an RMP amendment was completed to develop the land use planning direction for Pompeys Pillar and consider its designation as an ACEC.

As detailed in H-1601-1, LUP Handbook, all national monuments must have a stand-alone RMP-EIS-level plan. This RMP will develop site-specific implementation actions and plans for Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The RMP will address the three management zones at the Monument by including (but not limited to) considerations for recreation, visual resource, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, fire, water, air, soil, wetlands/riparian and cultural resource management. As previously mentioned, the RMP is being developed in conjunction with the Billings RMP revision and one EIS will be used for both of the RMPs' analysis.

The Monument's Historic Zone is used primarily to provide visitor access to William Clark's signature in a historic setting. The entire area is to be restored to a setting characteristic of 1806. Modifications of the landscape would be the minimum necessary for visitor safety and protection of the signature and other rock art from further deterioration. The second zone, Historic Zone-Developed, provides an area where most facilities have been placed, including the interpretive center and day-use area. Other facilities (i.e., non-motorized boat launch, interpretive trails, etc.) may be provided at some point in the future. Farming is to be excluded and currently tilled ground restored to a setting characteristic of 1806. The General Management Zone would be managed to improve and/or maintain wildlife habitat condition, enhance recreation opportunities and utilize agriculture to facilitate general management at PPNM.

The proclamation designating the Monument identified an array of historic and archeological objects to be protected. There are various ways of achieving this goal and legal mandate, including maintaining acceptable existing conditions, educating visitors, restricting access, setting research priorities, and restoring degraded environmental conditions. In addition to Monument resources, there are valuable natural and cultural resources within the Billings FO in need of protection. Options for protecting both Monument and Billings FO resources are identified and assessed in this document.

Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range

The BiFO protects, manages, and controls wild horses and burros under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (as amended by Congress in 1976, 1978, and 2004) to ensure that healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands. One of the BLM's key responsibilities under the 1971 law is to manage for a "thriving natural ecological balance" (TNEB). The Billings RMP addresses decisions to provide for the long term maintenance and sustainability of

wild horses. This includes identifying the original herd area (HA) from which the subsequent herd management area (HMA) will be determined. The Billings RMP also identifies habitat conditions and deficiencies; the initial and estimated herd size that could be managed while still preserving TNEB and multiple use relationships; guidelines and criteria for the maintenance and adjustment of the herd size and appropriate management level (AML); along with area wide restrictions needed in order to obtain objectives.

In addition, the area utilized by the wild horses encompasses private, state, Forest Service (FS), National Park Service (NPS) and BLM lands. Also, within the area utilized by wild horses, are entire areas or portions of three BLM, one FS and one NPS Wilderness Study Areas. This complex situation requires special management consideration in order to resolve resource conflicts, be consistent with other agencies' policies or plans, and conform to regulations and laws set forth in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review.

3.2 MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Concern 1: Air Quality
The RMPs will summarize all relevant "background" air quality and climate information associated with the planning areas. It will identify all potentially affected Class I areas as well as actions that could be taken to protect these areas. It will identify area-wide criteria or restrictions that would be applied to any activity authorized by the field offices to ensure compliance with all local, state, federal, or tribal air quality standards and implementation plans. Authorized activities, include but not limited to, are fuels management and energy development.

Concern 2: Water Quality/Quantity/Aquatic Species

Standard procedures regarding permitting practices required by Federal and Montana State laws will be identified in the RMPs. The BLM will work closely with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), plus Tribal, Federal and local laws regarding water quality planning and management. Data to be examined will include but is not limited to the Montana DEQ's identified impaired streams (303(d)), Montana's Streamside Management Zone Law, riparian condition, water rights, land jurisdiction, water quality, and water quantity data. The Billings RMP will identify: the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that the state of Montana and its cooperators (including the BLM and the FS) have developed and distributed for use by Federal land managers, including particular BMPs developed for watersheds as a result of the 303(d)/Total Maximum Daily Load process; Standards for Rangeland Health Assessments; BMPs for Grazing; and existing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the state of Montana.

The Billings RMP will identify drinking water wells on public land in the planning area that require protection under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, as amended. In addition, municipal watersheds in proximity to public land in the planning area will also be identified.

Concern 3: Soil Resources
Soils will be managed to maintain or improve soil health and productivity and minimize impacts to soil resources through the actions of management activities. Best management practices and mitigation measures will be implemented at the site-specific activity/project level to prevent or

reduce soil erosion and compaction; especially, for soils with severe erosion susceptibility, sparse vegetation, shallow depths and on steep slopes. If soil impacts cannot be mitigated or effectively controlled then the activity/project could be relocated or denied.

The RMPs will utilize available soil data to make informed decisions for a variety of resources and resource uses. State Soil Geographical Data (STATSGO) and Soil Survey Geographical Data (SSURGO) are available for all counties in the planning area.

Concern 4: Cultural Resources

The Billings and PPNM RMPs will describe the cultural resource values located within the planning area, and address the allocation of recorded sites to use categories as identified in BLM Manual 8110. In addition to assigning use categories to known cultural resources, the RMPs will also (1) develop a strategy for how those cultural resources assigned to use categories realize their use potential, (2) categorize geographic areas as high/medium/low priority for future proactive inventory for cultural properties, and (3) specify that all authorizations for land and resource use will comply with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), consistent with and subject to the objectives established in the RMPs for proactive use of cultural properties in the public interest (NHPA Sec. 106, 101 (d)(6), 110(a)(2)(E).

The RMPs will consider the use of these cultural resources for scientific use, conservation for future use, traditional use, public use, experimental use and discharge from management. Management actions will be prescribed within the RMPs for the protection, stabilization and/or interpretation of cultural resources. The RMPs will also be utilized as an additional tool to consult with tribal groups regarding traditional cultural values in the planning area and appropriate management strategies to protect, preserve and enhance those values. The BiFO will partner with expertise available at the State Historic Preservation Office to continue ongoing efforts and expand the knowledge of traditional uses within the planning area.

A new Class I literature review will need to be conducted in order to construct an overview of the cultural resources of the area. Following the completion of the RMPs, a Cultural Resource Management Plan/Project Plan (CRMP) will develop management prescriptions for the protection of significant cultural resources based on allocations made in the RMPs for the various cultural resource values to use categories. Consultation will address American Indian tribal, SHPO, and public concerns relative to the management of traditional cultural properties and sacred sites. In addition to the Class I overview, a GIS database indicating all areas inventoried and all site locations and an archaeological predictive model will be created for the BiFO and PPNM.

Concern 5: Paleontological Resources

The BLM Manual guidance found at 8270 will be used in development of the RMPs. The plans will identify criteria or restrictions to ensure that significant paleontological resources are identified and evaluated prior to surface disturbing activities, and threats are appropriately mitigated. The Billings RMP will also consider opportunities for scientific, educational and recreational use of paleontological locales within the planning area.

A Class I literature review will be conducted to construct an overview of the paleontological resources in the area. This information, coupled with information on the extent of surface geological exposures containing fossil remains will be utilized in the RMPs. As part of the Class

I Overview, a site sensitivity model, entitled Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system, will be developed for the planning area. The model predicts the potential occurrence of paleontological resources based on the distribution of geological units.

Following the completion of the RMPs, a Paleontological Management Plan/Project Plan will need to be developed that will develop and allocate appropriate paleontological values to appropriate uses and develop management prescriptions for the protection of significant paleontological resources.

Concern 6: Wildland Fire & Fuels Management

The RMPs will incorporate the 2001 update of the 1995 Federal Fire Policy, the National Fire Plan (NFP) and associated policies and guidelines, including multi-agency collaboration for fire, fuels management and budgeting, the Fire/Fuels Management Environmental Assessment Plan Amendment for the Montana/Dakotas (2003), Billings Fire Management Plan (2004). In addition to incorporating these plans, we will have the opportunity to (1) identify broad treatment levels, (2) identify general restrictions on fire management practices (suppression and fuels management) if any are needed to protect other resource values, and (3) restore fire adapted ecosystems.

The RMPs will also address emergency stabilization and rehabilitation activities on landscapes and communities affected by wildland fire through the use of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) as prescribed by requirements of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and local fire management plans (FMP). FMPs address the following: identifies fire management unit strategies for suppression and preparedness and determines constraints on fire activities to protect sensitive resources; identify type and level of fire activity and fuel treatment to achieve resource objectives including targets for fire size, Wildland Fire Use (WFU), and estimated level (acreage) of fuel treatment; and identify Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas. Consideration will be given to the appropriate use of tools as provided by the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI).

Concern 7: Lands and Realty

The RMPs will identify and inventory land uses under 43 CFR 2800, 2880, and 2920 which include, but are not limited to transportation and utility needs. The Billings RMP will incorporate communication site management plans and may designate additional communication sites.

With the passage of FLPMA, Congress declared it the policy of the United States to retain public lands in Federal ownership unless planning procedures determine that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the National interest. Review all lands for retention or disposal, and identify lands or types of resources for acquisition. Also need to consider Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) for disposals and acquisitions, where a portion of the proceeds from land sales can be used for qualified land acquisitions. Consider the effects of existing withdrawals on land tenure adjustments and determine future withdrawal actions needed (revocations, new withdrawals, withdrawal expirations). Consider use of withdrawals to protect sensitive resources (T&E, cultural, paleontological). Also consider the effects of changes to Bureau of Reclamation projects (withdrawal revocations, return of lands to BLM, management, and conveyance of some land to irrigation districts).

The Billings RMP will set criteria for disposal, to be used when assessing land tenure adjustment proposals within the planning area. Criteria will be consistent with laws governing public land tenure adjustments. In addition, specific parcels of public land will be identified by legal description for future disposal.

The RMPs will also set criteria for acquisition of land or interest in land. The criteria will focus on exchanges, fee acquisition of land, conservation easements, and road easement acquisitions considerations for access to public land. These criteria would then be applied to proposals that come under review for consideration in the planning area. Criteria will be consistent with FLPMA as well as with the goals and objectives established within the RMPs.

A significant percentage of BLM-administered acres in the planning area do not have legal access. Many areas that are legally accessible are difficult to locate due to the fragmented ownership pattern in south-central Montana. The Billings RMP will address the need for obtaining additional public access and enhancing existing access through signing and cooperation with other agencies. It will also incorporate the "State Director Guidance on Access (April 1989) and identify priority areas for access. We will also consider additional areas for access as needed.

Major considerations in alternative development and estimation of the effects for access management in the Billings RMP will include public and administrative access needs. It will address the acquisition of new lands in regards to allowable multiple uses (i.e., presence or absences of livestock grazing).

Concern 8: Visual Resource Management (VRM)

The RMPs will revisit current management objectives in the Billings RMP and provide management objectives for the BiFO and PPNM. The intent is balance the need for development with protecting scenic values. The RMPs will identify areas where altering the landscape (i.e., energy development, fuels reduction, utility corridors, road and trail development, recreation facility development, etc.) is deemed more important than maintaining the characteristic landscape and vice versa. In developing management objectives, fragmented ownership will be an important consideration to avoid managing scenic values on lands where BLM ownership is too limited to affect the overall landscape.

Concern 9: Abandoned Mine Lands (AMLs)

Abandoned mines generally include a range of mining impacts, or features that may pose a threat to water quality, public safety, and/or the environment. For many abandoned mines, no current claimant of record or viable potentially responsible party exists. The AML program addresses mines on or affecting public lands administered by BLM, at which exploration, development, mining, reclamation, maintenance, and inspection of facilities and equipment, and other operations ceased as of January 1, 1981 (the effective date of BLM's Surface Management regulations codified at 43 CFR 3809) with no intention of resuming active operation.

AMLs will be documented and placed in GIS. The Billings RMP will provide guidance for mitigation of the hazards associated with the AMLs. Overall, sites are divided into **physical safety** and **water quality** sites, although there can be overlap. Priority watersheds are identified by State government agencies in their Clean Water Act reports provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. BLM prioritizes sites and projects based on a risk-based

approach, and are typically located near high population centers or high-use areas. The AML Program selects cleanup projects through a program-wide collaborative process that occurs once a year.

4.0 PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-2) require the development of planning criteria to guide preparation of the resource management plan. Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that guide and direct the preparation of the plans. They ensure the plans are tailored to the identified issues and that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are based on applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, the result of consultation and coordination with the public, other Federal, state and local agencies, and Native American tribes.

The following preliminary criteria were developed and will be reviewed by the public during scoping; they will be included in the Federal Register Notice. After public comment analysis, the final planning criteria will be approved and distributed to all interested parties collaborating in the planning process.

1. The plans will be completed in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws.
2. The planning process will include an environmental impact statement that will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards.
3. The plans will establish new guidance and identify existing guidance upon which the BLM will rely in managing public lands within the BiFO and PPNM.
4. The RMPs/EIS will incorporate by reference the *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management;* the *Off-Highway Vehicle EIS and Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota, and Portions of South Dakota;* the *1992 Oil & Gas EIS/Amendment of the Powder River, Billings, & South Dakota RMPs;* the *Montana Final Statewide Oil and Gas EIS and Proposed Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plan;* the *Montana/Dakotas Statewide Fire Management Plan; Best Management Practices for Foresty in Montana;* the *Montana Streamside Management Zone Law and Rules, and when finalized, the Supplemental EIS to the Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Amendment and the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides EIS.*
5. The RMPs/EIS will incorporate by reference all prior Wilderness Study Area findings that affect public lands in the planning area.
6. The planning process will include early consultation meetings with FWS during the development of the plans.
7. The plans will result in determinations as required by special program and resource specific guidance detailed in Appendix C of the BLM's Planning Handbook.
8. The Billings plan will incorporate the requirements of the BLM Handbook H-1624-1, *Planning for Fluid Minerals.*
9. The RMPs/EIS will incorporate the requirements of the interagency reference guide entitled Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenarios and Cumulative Effects Analysis developed by the Rocky Mountain Federal Leadership Forum on NEPA, Oil and Gas, and Air Quality.
10. The plans will recognize the State's responsibility to manage wildlife populations, including uses such as hunting and fishing, within the planning area.

11. To the extent possible, goals and objectives in the plans for plants and wildlife (including Special Status Species) will incorporate or respond to goals and objectives from established recovery plans, conservation strategies, strategic plans, etc.
12. Decisions in the plans will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies as long as the decisions are in conformance with legal mandates on management of public lands.
13. The scope of analysis will be consistent with the level of analysis in approved plans and in accordance with Bureau-wide standards and program guidance.
14. Geospatial data will be automated within a Geographic Information System (GIS) to facilitate discussions of the affected environment, alternative formulation, analysis of environmental consequences, and display of the results.
15. Resource allocations must be reasonable and achievable within available technological and budgetary constraints.
16. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for oil & gas, road drainage, grazing, Water Quality BMPs for Montana Forests, fire rehab, wind energy, power lines, etc. will be added.
17. Native American Consultation & Coordination - Two Native American reservations adjoin the planning the area - the Crow and the Northern Cheyenne. Also, other Tribes located in Montana, North and South Dakota, and Wyoming will be contacted during the scoping process to determine what level of participation they would like to have during the RMPs process. Close coordination will take place to see that the Tribe's needs are considered, analyzed, and that the BLM fulfills its trust responsibilities.
18. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be consulted on any potential effect of these plans on cultural resources under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470f) and under the National Programmatic Agreement.

5.0 DATA and GIS NEEDS

Appendix 2 provides a comprehensive summary of data and inventory needs in order to prepare the RMPs to meet current planning guidance, and to address anticipated issues unique to the planning area. All new data collected will have information about the data (metadata) stored in a database. All metadata will meet the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards. All new data collected will meet either BLM national data standards or the standard of the appropriate data collection agency/entity.

6.0 PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS/COLLABORATION

6.1 BLM PARTICAPATION

A number of BLM staff will be involved in the preparation of the RMPs throughout all levels of the organization. Special expertise and review will be required from the Montana State Office during various steps of the process.

Two new positions stationed in the BiFO are required to support development of the RMPs. These positions would be the Project Manager and Writer/Editor. These positions would be a temporary position for the length of the project. It is critical to the successful and timely development of the RMPs.

The remainder of the Core/ID Teams will be comprised of existing specialists currently on staff. While the Project Manager will coordinate the ID Team effort, most members of the team will remain supervised within their current organizational structure. The Project Manager will work directly for the Field Manager. Table 4 displays the work months estimated for each FO employee listed below.

Table 2. BLM Roles and Responsibilities[1]		
Position	**Name**	**Roles/Responsibilities**
State Director	Gene Terland	1. Issues the draft RMP/EIS, final RMPs/EIS, and ROD.
WO	Jason Powell	1. WO210 State Liaison, Planning and Environmental Analyst (202) 452-5016
State Office Coordinator	Jim Beaver	1. Coordinates assignment and scheduling of any needed personnel from the Montana State Office. 2. Coordinates timely reviews by Technical Review team in cooperation with Project Manager in accordance with schedule. 3. Acts as the State Director's representative for the project. 4. Provides technical assistance to the FO when necessary. 5. Acts as liaison between MSO and WO210.
Field Manager	Vacant	1. Responsible for preparation and completion of RMPs. 2. Recommends approval of the draft and final RMPs/EIS and RODs. 3. Supervises Assistant Field Managers and Project Manager during work on the RMPs. 4. Apprises Project Manager of needed corrections and ensuring original direction is maintained.
Assistant Field Manager	Jim Sparks	1. Assures availability of Core and ID Team members for completion of all phases of the RMPs within assigned dates. 2. Participates in all reviews.
Public Affairs Specialist	Mary Apple	1. Assists Project Manager and contractor in keeping all local interest groups and key individuals informed of general plans progress. 2. Participates in all public participation activities. 3. Develops communication products, including a communication plan and outreach materials such as news releases and bulletins 4. Prepares or assists with briefing materials 5. Coordinates notification to Congressional Staffers 6. Posts components on the Internet
Project Manager	Vacant	1. Works with Public Affairs Specialist to coordinate public participation in plans. 2. Serves as primary contact and spokesperson for RMPs process. 3. Ensures Team members are aware of assignments, schedule, and deadlines. 4. Coordinates with Assistant Field Managers and MSO Coordinator to ensure RMPs commitments are met and assignments completed by staff under their jurisdiction. 5. Keeps Field Manager and SO Coordinator informed on progress with monthly updates.

[1] The purpose of this table is to give a general understanding of BLM's Roles and Responsibilities during the RMPs process; the assignment of specific tasks to be completed by the contractor versus the BLM will be defined in much greater detail in the Statement of Work.

Table 2. BLM Roles and Responsibilities[1]		
Position	**Name**	**Roles/Responsibilities**
		6. Identifies problems or challenges in meeting scheduled time frames, recommends solutions, and facilitates the resolution of conflicts. 7. Works to ensure the RMPs is prepared within the technical and procedural quality standards, which meet the requirements of the Bureau Planning System, NEPA guidelines, and RMP planning guidance. 8. Works directly with WO210 and MSO on resolving any protests filed to the Director at issuance of the FEIS. 9. Responsible for overall quality control of analysis, public participation, and documentation.
Adminstrative Assistant/Writer/ Editor	Vacant	1. Principle assistant to the Project Manager 2. Ensures compliance with 1600 regulations, especially, 1601-1 Handbook, NEPA, CEQ Guidelines and BLM NEPA Handbook. 3. Coordinates assumptions and RFDS to provide a consistent basis for analysis for all ID team members. 4. Writes major portions of the RMP. 5. Maintains the administrative record. 6. Reviews other RMPs for ideas concerning document format, analysis methods, data sources, etc. 7. Maintains the web site. 8. Keeps the mailing list current. 9. Writes Federal Register Notices and Scoping materials. 10. Ensures consistency of analysis among ID team members and their impacts.
<u>Core Team</u> Wildlife Range/Vegetation Lands/Realty Rec/Wilderness Fire/Forestry GIS Pompeys Pillar Cultural	 Jayson Parks Larry Padden Tom Carroll Lynn Anderson Bob Meidinger Sheila Cain Dick Kodeski Carolyn Sherve-Bybee	1. Serves as program lead for their section/issues. 2. Works to prepare the necessary sections of the RMPs. 3. Assists in preparation of all sections of the document. 4. Ensures technical adequacy of their programs. 5. Reviews the entire RMPs and comments on all sections. 6. GIS – Serves as data administrator for RMPs; coordinates with MSO GIS on data standards, metadata, and requirements; Provide GIS expertise to RMPs ID Team (e.g., technical assistance, training, correction efforts). 7. Each BLM Core Team member would be responsible for quality control for his/her respective resource to ensure accuracy of information and use of appropriate assumptions and methodology in analysis.

Table 2. BLM Roles and Responsibilities[1]		
Position	**Name**	**Roles/Responsibilities**
ID Team Weeds Wild Horses Fish/Riparian Soils Hydrology SSS Plants Air Social Oil & Gas Economics	 Melissa Half Jared Bybee Joe Platz Robert Mitchell Dex Hight Nora Taylor Mike Philbin Joan Trent John Bown John Thompson	1. Participates in team meetings and work sessions. 2. Assures the technical adequacy of program input; coordinate with MSO counterparts and contractor on all aspects of plans development and technical program adequacy. 3. Keeps Project Manager informed on progress of assignments. 4. Reviews document and assures that references are documented, terms defined, and thoughts and statements are consistent throughout the document; works with Writer-editor to assure consistency. 5. Provides written responses when requested to public comments received throughout the course of the RMPs. 6. Each BLM ID Team member would be responsible for quality control for his/her respective resource to ensure accuracy of information and use of appropriate assumptions and methodology in analysis.

Table 2. BLM Roles and Responsibilities Cont.		
Position	**Position**	**Position**
Technical Review Team	State Office Program Leads	1. Provide policy, technical, and consistency review of documents. 2. Provide comments to FO counterparts and Project Manager; and advice of needed corrections.
Support Team	Admin Staff	1. Assists RMPs effort as necessary in providing administrative skills, computer and IRM/IT support, public affairs assistance, and other administrative duties.

6.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A detailed communications plan will be prepared for each major step of the planning process: scoping, development and release of the draft EIS, and release of the final EIS. The purpose of this section of the preplan is to provide overall public involvement guidance for the planning process.

6.2.1 Goals and Objectives

The objectives for this Public Participation Plan are to:

1. Provide an outline that will guide public involvement activities during the planning process.
2. Provide an equitable and open process for all individuals and entities that want to be involved.
3. Create a public involvement strategy that is understandable to participants and one that provides useful information to the BLM and decision makers.
4. Provide ample opportunity for the public to comment in a meaningful way during the planning process.
5. Present a positive image of the BLM in all contacts.

6.2.2 Interested or Affected Public

Major stakeholders are listed below. Additional stakeholders will be identified throughout the process. A mailing list identifying key individuals in organizations,

agencies and interest groups will be compiled with the assistance of the Project Manager (along with the public affairs specialist) who will be responsible for all mailings, and notifications of public meetings, etc. associated with the public participation process. Public involvement techniques considered most appropriate will be identified during development of the detailed communications plan for each planning phase.

1. Eastern MT Resource Advisory Council
2. County Commissioners (Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone)
3. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
4. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP)
5. Native American Tribes (Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Arapaho, Shoshone, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, and Sioux)
6. State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
7. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
8. Custer National Forest
9. Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
10. Oil/Gas lessees/operators
11. Livestock permittees
12. Montana Board of Outfitters
13. Montana Logging Association (MLA)
14. Seven State Grazing Districts
15. Mining Companies/Interest Groups
16. Montana Wilderness Association
17. Montana Stockgrowers Association
18. Montana Public Lands Council
19. National Wildlife Federation
20. Montana Wildlife Federation
21. Northern Plains Resource Council
22. Local and Regional Commodity and Conservation Groups
23. Montana Congressional Delegation
24. Montana Governor’s Office
25. Interested Businesses and Consultants
26. Adjacent Private Landowners
27. Recreation-related Groups and Individuals (OHV)
28. Pompeys Pillar Historical Association
29. Federal Lands Hunting and Shooting Sports Roundtable (MOU)
30. Regional Media
31. BLM Employees (FO, MSO, WO)
32. Conservation Districts (MACD)
33. Montana Petroleum Association
34. ROW and Other Land Use Authorization Holders
35. Various Industry Groups
36. Wilderness Interest Groups
37. Private Surface Owners
38. County Fire Wardens
39. Montana Trail Riders Association
40. Conservation, Environmental and Sportsmen Groups

41. Travel Montana
42. Wild Horse and Burro Interest Groups
43. Various County Chamber of Commerces

6.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES/COLLOBORATION

Target dates and other details for public participation activities, notices, and availability of printed information (key activities for each phase of the planning process) are listed below. Maximum public involvement is intended. Other activities will be detailed in the communications plan for each phase of the planning process.

Letters will be mailed in 2008 inviting other agencies to be cooperators on the Billings and PPNM RMPs. The letters will be sent to: the eight (8) counties within the FO boundary; Montana State Governor's Office; Forest Service; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Department of Natural Resources (DNRC); Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP); State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO; and, Native American Tribes. If there is no response to the letters, then follow-up phone contacts will be made with the intent of trying to get some interdisciplinary team involvement with agencies and tribes.

The RAC will most likely be asked to participate for some issues using subgroups. Also, periodic coordination meetings will be held with the FWS, and EPA to provide an open process designed to eliminate potential conflicts at the end of the NEPA process.

6.3.1 Scoping Phase

- Publish a Notice of Intent to prepare the RMPs in the *Federal Register*. The Notice will identify the preliminary issues and planning criteria. Request ACEC nominations and post notification of scoping meetings through the local news media, notices, letters, etc.
- Issue a news release, a newsletter/brochure, and website information regarding the preparation of the RMPs. An announcement of scheduled scoping meetings will be sent to people on the mailing list.
- Informal public open house scoping meetings will be organized to gather public input on the issues, management concerns to be resolved in the plans, and on the planning criteria and process.
- Briefings will be held with the Congressional staffs, County Commissioners, tribes, and local community groups.
- Coordination/consultation will occur with FWS and SHPO.
- Written comments on issues/scope of the RMPs will be requested by the end of the scoping period.

6.3.2 Alternative Development

- A newsletter/brochure will be developed to provide background information on issues and preliminary alternatives.
- Informal public open houses will be held with interested groups, agencies, individuals, etc. to discuss alternatives and make sure issues are addressed.
- Use RAC subgroups where feasible to develop alternatives for controversial issues.

- Written comments on preliminary alternatives for the RMPs will be requested by the end of the comment period (to be determined).

6.3.3 Issue the Draft RMPs/EIS

- Publish a notice of availability in the Federal Register for the draft RMPs/EIS followed by a 90-day public comment period. The 90-day public comment period begins with the publication of EPA's Federal Register notice.
- Issue a news release in local/regional papers on the availability of the draft RMPs/EIS, the 90-day comment period, and the schedule of public meetings to be held during the comment period.
- Public meetings will be held during the 90-day public comment period to gather verbal or written input on the draft RMPs/EIS.
- Briefings will be held with the Congressional staffs, County Commissioners, tribes, and local community groups.
- Coordination/consultation will occur with FWS and SHPO.
- Written comments on the draft RMPs will be requested by the end of the comment period (to be determined).
- Copies will be available on the BLM website.

6.3.4 Publish the Proposed Final RMPs/EIS

- A notice of availability will be published in the *Federal Register* for the final Billings RMPs/EIS and a 30-day protest period. The 30-day protest period begins with the publication of EPA's Federal Register notice.
- A Governor's consistency review (60 days) will be initiated to identify inconsistencies with State or local plans.
- Briefings will be held with the Congressional staffs, County Commissioners, tribes, and local community groups.
- Coordination/consultation will occur with FWS and SHPO.

6.3.5 Respond to Protests

- Written responses will be sent to the public as needed.
- Protest resolution with the WO, if necessary.
- Issue a Federal Register notice requesting comments on significant changes as result of a protest, if necessary.

6.3.6 Publish Approved Plans and Record of Decisions

- Publish a notice of availability in the *Federal Register* for the approved plans and RODs.
- Send approved plans and RODs to those on the mailing list (which will include all those who participated in the planning process during the preparation of the plans).
- Issue a news release in local/regional papers on the availability of the approved plans and RODs.
- Hold briefings with the Congressional staff, County Commissioners and local community groups.

6.4 RESULTS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Core and ID Teams, with assistance from the project manager, will analyze all the comments on both the scoping effort and Draft EIS, and develop a summary of comments categorized by issue. The summary will be available to the public upon request and key points will be shared with the public through the RMPs newsletter. The purpose of the scoping comments is to assist in finding out issues and concerns during the start of the process; whereas the comments on the Draft EIS will be more specific to actual alternatives and effects, and have a more formal response to be published in the Final EIS. All comments will be available for public review unless specifically requested by the commenter.

The BLM's interdisciplinary team along with the line manager will review all the public comments and consider the information to develop alternatives and make decisions on a variety of issues.

6.5 INTERNET

The planning team will establish a link from the BiFO website to the Billings and PPNM RMPs/EIS web page. The website will contain information such as the plan schedule, maps, pictures, contact information and planning documents as they are completed.

An email address will be established to enable the public to submit their comments electronically throughout the planning process.

7.0 FORMAT AND PROCESS FOR THE PLAN

The primary product will be two stand-alone documents called the Billings Resource Management Plan (Billings RMP) and Pompeys Pillar National Monument Resource Management Plan (PPNM RMP). The nine steps of the BLM's standard planning process will be followed in the preparation of the RMPs. The Bureau's standard formats for land use plan documents (H-1601-1, Appendix F) will be used for any documents produced during the planning process.

The proposed RMPs and EIS documents will follow standard formats required under NEPA. Each chapter will be supplemented with maps, tables, and figures to assist the public in understanding. Given the current culture of rural Montana, hardcopy publications will be the standard; however, in addition to the hardcopy publications, all documents will be posted on the Internet. In addition, geospatial data will be made available to the public via an Internet mapping tool (ArcIMS) when this tool is available for use Bureauwide is not known. It is possible that copies could be distributed on CD.

This will be a web-based RMP-EISs process.

Decisions in the existing Billings RMP and amendments will be reviewed and brought forward as appropriate. Also, the RMPs-EIS may incorporate existing BLM management decisions from fire management plans, livestock grazing allotment management plans, wildlife habitat management plans, conservation/recovery plans for special status species, recreation area

management plans, Standards and Guidelines and other applicable plans. Any NEPA analysis prepared for such decisions will also be brought forward if it meets current standards.

The RMPs will describe the current management situation and then identify desired future conditions to be maintained or achieved, and prioritize management actions necessary to achieve objectives and a schedule for implementing the identified management actions.

8.0 PLAN PREPARATION SCHEDULE

Table 3 identifies the interim steps and time line for completing the Billings and the PPNM RMPs. The RMPs schedule will begin as soon as requested funding is provided.

Table 3. Billings and PPNM RMPs time line.

FY	*2007*				*2008*				*2009*				*2010*				*2011*			
Quarter	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
1. Preparation Planning																				
Identify funding																				
Prepare preliminary schedule																				
Identify ID Team, support, and participating agencies																				
Identify preliminary issues																				
Identify management concerns																				
Define proposal																				
Brief other federal agencies, local, state, and Tribal governments																				
List data needs																				
Prepare MOU with cooperating agencies																				
Prepare Public Participation Plan																				
2 week review by MSO staff																				
2 week review by WO staff																				
2. Identification of issues																				
Publish Notice of Intent in Federal Register																				
Conduct Economic Profile workshop, develop database																				
Prepare scoping sessions/allow public review																				
Consultation with Tribal government																				
Conduct public scoping sessions																				
Analyze public scoping/prepare report																				
Define issues and scope of RMP																				
3. Development of Preliminary Planning Considerations																				
Identify scope of decisions to be made																				
Prepare list of preliminary planning criteria																				
Brief local, state, and Tribal governments																				
Convene FWS/BLM consultation planning team																				
Make proposed planning criteria available to public (in scoping report)																				
Revise planning criteria																				
FM approves planning criteria																				

FY	*2007*				*2008*				*2009*				*2010*				*2011*			
4. Data Inventory and Information Collection																				
Identify preliminary issues																				
Link data needs with preliminary issues																				
Assemble existing data																				
Identify data shortfalls																				
Collect shortfall data																				
5. Analysis of the Current Management Situation																				
Brief local, state, and Tribal governments																				
Identify known management opportunities																				
Write description of the No Action alternative																				
Write description of the affected environment																				
6. Formulation of Alternatives																				
Identify specific resource management requirements																				
Specify management prescriptions by alternative																				
Reconcile management prescription conflicts																				
Alternatives developed and ready for analysis																				
7. Estimation of Effects of Alternatives (Effects Analysis)																				
Preliminary draft assembled for MSO review																				
Brief local, state, and Tribal governments																				
8. Selection of the Preferred Alternative																				
MSO review of preliminary DRMPs/DEIS																				
Incorporate MSO comments; prepare camera-ready copy																				
WO review and incorporate WO comments																				
Prepare camera-ready copy																				
State Director briefing & approval																				
Submit NOA of Draft RMPs/EIS for Departmental approval																				
Conclude consultation where possible																				

FY	*2007*				*2008*				*2009*				*2010*				*2011*			
Brief local, state, and Tribal governments																				
DRMPs/DEIS at printer																				
DRMPs/DEIS filed with EPA																				
9. Review and Completion of Final RMPs																				
90-day public comment period																				
Review public comments																				
Revise document based on public comments																				
Develop and analyze new alternative if needed																				
MSO review of preliminary PRMPs/FEIS																				
Incorporate MSO comments																				
WO review and incorporate WO comments																				
State director briefing and approval																				
Submit NOA of Proposed RMPs/Final EIS for Departmental approval																				
60-day Governor review																				
PRMPs/FEIS at printer																				
PRMPs/FEIS filed with EPA; 30-day protest period																				
Conduct formal consultation with USFWS																				
Conduct formal consultation with SHPO/Tribal governments																				
Respond to protests																				
Prepare RODs																				
RMPs approved, State Director signs RODs																				
Approved RMPs prepared for printer																				
Approved RMPs available to public																				
Implementation Plans completed																				
10. Monitoring and Evaluation																				
Ongoing – life of plans																				

9.0 BUDGET

Table 4 provides the Proposed RMPs-EIS budget for fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

Table 4
RMPs-EIS Overall Budget

Billings Field Office TEAM							
Discipline	Name	Office	WM Estimate by Fiscal Year				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL
RMPs-EIS Project Manager	Vacant	010	7	12	12	12	43
Administrative Assistant/Writer/Editor	Vacant	010	4	12	12	12	40
GIS Technical Specialist	Sheila Cain	010	7	9	9	6	31
Realty	Tom Carroll	010	2	4	4	2	12
• Cultural Heritage, Ethnography, and Tribal Consultation • Paleontology	Carolyn Sherve-Bybee	010	3	5	5	2	15
• Wildlife • Special Status Species • Riparian/Wetlands	Jay Parks	010	4	6	6	3	19
• VRM • Recreation • Transportation/ Access • Wild & Scenic River • ACECs • WSA's	Lynn Anderson	010	4	5	5	3	17
Noxious Weeds	Melissa Half	010	2	2	2	1	7
Rangeland Health and Livestock Grazing	Larry Padden	010	3	3	3	2	11
Wild Horse & Burro	Jared Bybee	010	2	3	3	2	10
National Monument	Dick Kodeski	010	1	2	2	1	6
• Fire Management • Forestry	Bob Meidinger	010	3	4	4	2	13
Surface/ Ground Water Hydrology	Dex Hight	MCFO	1	2	1	1	5

Soils & Surface Resource Protection	Robert Mitchell	MCFO	1	1	1	1	4
Fisheries	Joe Platz	MCFO	1	1	1	1	4
Special Status Species - Plants	*Nora Taylor	MSO	1	1	1	1	4
Air Quality/Noise	*Mike Philbin	MSO	1	1	1	0	3
Sociology	*Joan Trent	MSO	2	4	2	1	9
Economics	*John Thompson	MSO	2	3	1	1	7
Solid Minerals, Saleable Minerals	*Becky Spurgin	MSO	1	1	1	1	4
Oil and Gas Leasing and Development	*John Bown *Casper Team	MSO Casper	1	1	1	1	4
Total Core Team Workmonths			53	82	77	56	268
Total Core Team Labor Cost (AWMC - $7,490)			$397K	$614K	$577K	$419K	$2,007,320

*Project Manager will be the local support person for these resources.

Billings Field Office SUPPORT TEAM							
Discipline	**Name**	**Office**	**WM Estimate by Fiscal Year**				
			2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**TOTAL**
Field Manager	Vacant	010	2	2	2	2	8
Assistant Field Manager	Jim Sparks	010	2	2	2	2	8
Administrative	Donna Kaseman	010	1	1	1	1	4
Budget Tracking/Procurement	Sharon Ross	010	1	1	1	1	4
Law Enforcement	Chuck Ward	010	1	1	1	0	3
Planning Coordination (Paid by WO210)	Jason Powell	WO	0	0	0	0	0
Planning Coordination	Jim Beaver	MSO	1	1	1	1	4
Internet Coordination/Webpage	Mary Apple	MSO	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
Layout/Printing	Kathy Ives	MSO	0.5	2	2	2	6.5
IRM		MSO	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2
Total Support WMS			9.5	11	11	10	41.5
Total Support Labor Cost (AWMC - $7,490)			$71K	$82K	$82K	$75K	$310,835

Item	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
SALARIES/LABOR				
Core ID Team	397K	614K	577K	419K
Support Team	71K	82K	82K	75K
GIS Term Position	60K	60K	60K	30K
Total Salaries/Labor	***528K***	***756K***	***719K***	***524K***
CONTRACTS				
Cultural Resources (Class I)	185K			
Ethnographic Reports	100K			
Sonora Inst. (Socio Econ.)	40K			
Forest Service Planning Enterprise Team (Economics)	0	5K	5K	0
Total Contracts	***325K***	***5K***	***5K***	***0***
Seasonal Labor				
Fisheries/Aquatics	15K	10K		
Access/Realty *	15K	10K		
WSR	15K	10K		
VRM Inventory*	20K			
Wildlife*	20K	20K		
Total Seasonal Labor 1610	***30K***	***20K***	***0***	***0***
PROCUREMENT				
Federal Register	.8K	.8K	.8K	.8K
Newsletter/Brochure/other	6K	6K	2K	1K
Meeting Rooms	3K	2K	.5K	
IMPLAN annual data sets		3K	3K	
Misc.	5K	1.5K	1.5K	1K
Draft RMP/EIS			10K	
Final RMP/EIS				10K
Record of Decision				5K
Total Procurement	***14.8K***	***13.3K***	***17.8K***	***17.8K***
MISC.				
Data Collection for RMP	14K	10K	10K	10K
Vehicle Costs	20K	20K	20K	20K
Travel	20K	15K	5K	2.5K
Training	25K	10.5K	2K	1K
Computers, printers, GPS, supplies	12.5K	1K	1K	1K
WY Assistance with RFD & Alternatives	10K	10K	10K	
Total Misc.	***101.5K***	***66.5K***	***48K***	***34.5K***
Total Proposed Budget	***999.3K***	***860.8K***	***788.8K***	***576.3K***
			TOTAL 4 YEAR BUDGET	***3,225,200***

(* indicates funding other than 1610)

If, during scoping, a critical data gap is identified, additional funding would need to be secured before such data could be collected. Additional funding would also be necessary if a decision is made to contract aspects of the RMPs-EIS preparation. Funding will come from planning, 1610, although program funding will be solicited and used whenever feasible.

GLOSSARY
of
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC – Area of Critical Environmental Concern – Areas of public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. (43 CFR 1610.0-5)

Adaptive Management – Adaptive management is a procedure in which decisions and changes in management are made as part of an ongoing process. It is a continuous process of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and incorporating new information into strategies to meet the goals and objectives of ecosystem management as described in the RMP.

AML – Abandoned Mine Lands

AMP – Allotment Management Plan – A written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures, if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment.

AUMs – Animal Unit Months

BiFO – Billings Field Office

Biodiversity –The diversity of living organisms considered at all levels of organization, including genetics, species, and higher taxonomic levels, and the variety of habitats and ecosystems as well as the processes occurring therein.

Biomass – All vegetative materials grown in forest, woodland, or rangeland environments that are the by-products of management, restoration, or fuel reduction treatments.

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

BMPs – Best Management Practices

CBNG – Coal bed Natural Gas

CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality – Established by Title II of NEPA to assist and advise the President in preparation of an annual Environmental Quality Report and stay abreast of trends in the quality of the environment

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

Collaboration, collaborative planning – A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions with broad support for managing public and other lands.

Cooperating Agencies – Any Federal agency other than a lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal or alternative; a State or local agency of similar qualifications; an Indian Tribe (by agreement with lead agency) when effects are on a reservation. (40 CFR 1508.5)

Corporate Data – Electronic data and their derived applications, which are shared or exchanged across administrative units, used repetitively through time, applied in decision-making, and/or released to the public and others. Corporate data are official agency records and include all correspondence, memoranda, case files, photographs, and electronic records that BLM uses in connection with the transaction of business.

CWPP – Community Wildfire Protection Plan

DNRC – Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

DR – Decision Record

EA – Environmental Assessment

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement – A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposed a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

EPA – US Environmental Protection Agency

EPCA – Energy Policy and Conservation Act

ERMAs – Extensive Recreation Management Areas

FGDC – Federal Geographic Data Committee

FLPMA – **Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976** – Public Law 94-579m passed October 21, 1976. Provides much of BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance, including a requirement that land use planning be done.

FLTFA – The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act – commonly called the "Baca Act", became law on July 25, 2000. It provides for the use of revenues from the sale or exchange of public lands identified for disposal under land use plans in effect as of the date of the FLTFA.

FMP – Fire Management Plan

FO – Field Office

Forage banks – Forage reserved for use in an emergency such as drought, rangeland restoration or rehabilitation.

FS – US Forest Service

FWP – Montana Fish ,Wildlife and Parks

FWS – US Fish Wildlife Service

GIS – **Geospatial [or Geographic] Information System** – A computer system capable of storing, analyzing, and displaying data and describing places on the earth's surface.

HA – Herd Area

HazMat – Hazardous materials – Any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance which, when released to the environment, may present substantial danger to public health and welfare or the environment. (CERCLA, sec. 101 (10))

HFI – Healthy Forest Initiative

HFRA – Healthy Forests Restoration Act

HMA – Herd Management Area

Invasive Weeds – Noxious Weeds – Non-native invasive plants that are fast spreading and often expensive or difficult to control. Noxious weeds may proliferate, forming mono-cultures, which can crowd out other plants that provide biodiversity.

Metadata – Detailed information about data

MBTA – Migratory Bird Treaty Act

MSO – Montana State Office

Multiple Use – Management of public ands and resource values so they are utilized in the combination that best meets the present and future needs of the American people, with consideration given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the uses that will give the greatest economic return or unit output (43 CFR 1601.0-5 (f))

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NFP – National Fire Plan

NHL – National Historic Landmark

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended

NOA – Notice of Availability

NPS – US National Parks Service

PPNM – Pompeys Pillar National Monument

PSD – Prevention of Significant Deterioration -- applies to new major sources or major modifications at existing sources for pollutants where the area the source is located is in attainment or unclassifiable with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

OHV – Off-highway vehicle – In addition to cars, trucks, dune buggies, jeeps and motorcycles, the motorized OHV category includes sport utility vehicles (SUV's), all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), ultralights (aircraft), motorized bicycles, and other emerging technologies.

PFC – Proper Functioning Condition – Evaluation method to assess riparian area and wetland areas to determine if natural processes are functioning and if areas natural processes are in a stable ecologically condition.

PFYC – Potential Fossil Yield Classification system

RAC – Resource Advisory Council – Advisory committees established under authority of FLPMA to provide recommendations to the BLM authorized officer on issues related to public land management (43 CFR 1784 and 4180.2).

RFDS – Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario

ROD – Record of Decision

RMP – Resource Management Plan – A land use plan, as described by FLPMA, that generally establishes land allowable resource uses, areas designated for restricted use, general management constraints, general implementation sequences, and monitoring standards; not a final implementation decision on actions that require further steps (43 CFR 1601.0-5 (k)).

ROW – Right-of-Way

SEIS – Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

SHPO – Montana State Historic Preservation Office

SMZ – Streamside Management Zone Law

SRMAs – Special Recreation Management Areas

SSS – Special Status Species: – Proposed, listed, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act as well as state-listed species and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species. (See BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Policy, IM MT-2004-082 -2004 Montana/Dakotas Sensitive Species List for animals and IM MT-2005-55 - 2005 Montana/Dakotas Special Status Plant Species Policy).

STATSGO – State Soil Geographic Database

SSURGO – Soil Survey Geographic Database

T&E – Threatened and Endangered

TNEB – Thriving Natural Ecological Balance

Upland – Terrestrial ecosystems located away from riparian zones, wetlands, springs, seeps, and dry washes; ecosystems made up of vegetation not in contact with groundwater or other permanent water sources.

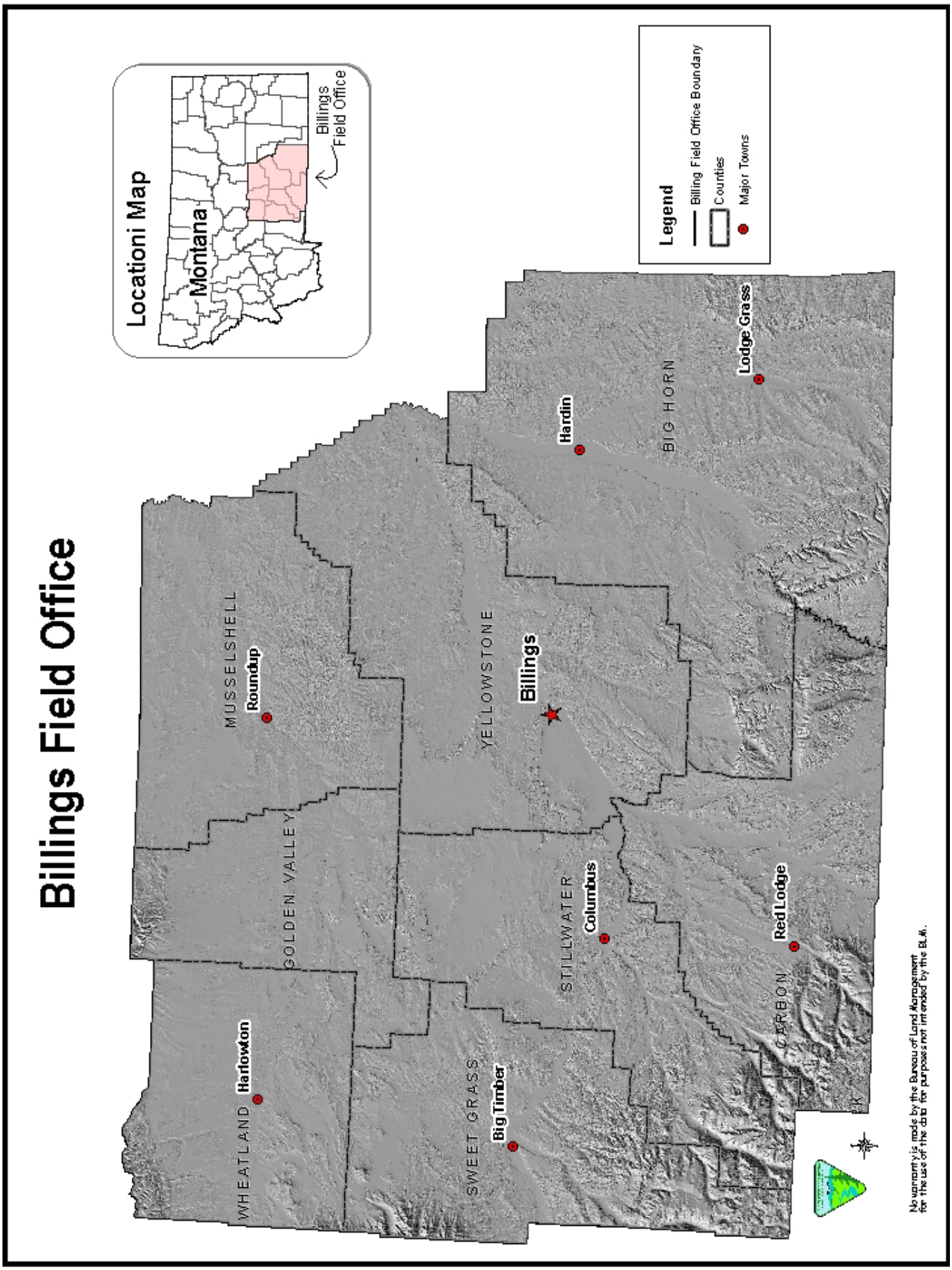
WM – Work month

WSA – Wilderness Study Area

WUI – Wildland-Urban Interface

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Planning Area by County



Appendix 2

Billings and PPNM RMPs - Existing/Needed GIS Data As Of 07/23/07

Why Needed	Needed Data Set(s)	Is Needed Data Set Available	Is Metadata Complete	Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data	Estimated Costs Staff Needs (Seasonals)
This listing will continually be updated as new data is collected and old data updated.					
Base Info. Analysis					
Base Info. Analysis	FO Administrative Boundaries			SDE	
	County Boundaries			SDE	
	PLS		GCDB		
	Ownership			SDE/Snapping to GCDB	
	Ownership (Subsurface)			Not Current	
	Topographic Maps			Yes	
	NED DEM			Yes	
	NED Shaded Relief			Yes	
	Slope			Need Calculation	
	Vegetation Vegetation and Land Cover			State Library	
	Hydrologic Units (Preliminary)			HUK	
	Lakes Ponds Lakes and Large Rivers			1:100K SDE	
	Streams and Rivers Streams and Rivers			NHD Decision to be made to choice date from GCDB, NAID 2005, NAD or 1:100K	
	Impaired Streams				
	Cities and Towns			Have coverages – source unknown	
	Scenic and Natural Areas				
	Digital Ortho Quads (USDANAIP)			NAID 2005	
	Pipelines over 12 inches			1:100K – source unknown	
	USFS/Other Agency Roads				

	Transportation			1:100K	
	County and City Roads				
	State and Federal Roads			Cences (Tiger Data)	
	Railroads			1:100K	
	BLM/FIMMS Roads			Have some	
	Other/Miscellaneous Roads				
Wildlife					
	State Wildlife Management Areas	Yes		Montana National Heritage Program (MT NHP)– Sensitive Plant Inventories (Nora Taylor)	
	State Listed Endangered Species	Yes		MT NHP and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MT FWP) GIS digitized- may need updates	
	Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species	N.A.		None identified in BiFO	
	Elk Seasonal Use Areas	Yes		Last update at least 5 years ago from MT FWP, all will need updates from MT FWP	
	Mule Deer Seasonal Use Areas	Yes		Last update at least 5 years ago from MT FWP, all will need updates from MT FWP	
	Bighorn Sheep Habitat	Yes		Last update at least 5 years ago from MT FWP, all will need updates from MT FWP	
	Pronghorn	Yes		Last update at least 5 years ago from MT FWP, all will need updates from MT FWP	
	White Tail Prairie Dog	Yes		2005	
	Black Tail Prairie Dog	Yes		2000 through 2004	
	Sage Grouse/Sharptail – Leks	Yes			
	Sage Grouse/Sharptail – Nests	Yes		Only available in Musselshell/Golden Valley counties Research Area	
	Sage Grouse – Winter	Yes		Only available in Musselshell/Golden Valley counties. Some tentative info from remote sensing project from Univ. of Montana for BiFO	
	Raptor Nesting Areas	Yes		Raptor contract	
	Waterfowl Seasonal Use Areas	Yes		North Wetland Mapping	
	Migratory Birds	N.A.			

Aquatic Resources					
	Fisheries	Yes		Primarily Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and other fish species from MT FWP. This includes populations and mapping fish-bearing streams.	
	Fisheries habitats	Some, but not all available		Need seasonals/Intern to collect data in FY 2008/2009	17K
	Aquatic invertebrates	Some but not all available		Need seasonals/intern to collect data in FY 2008/2009	8K
	Amphibians	Yes		Partial BiFO 2005 contract. Herp inventory contract needs digitized	
	Aquatic Dependent Reptiles	Yes		Partial BiFO 2005 contract. Herp inventory contract needs digitized	
	Sensitive Aquatic Species	Yes		Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, sauger, Northern redbelly X Finescale dace, MT FWP	
Riparian & Hydrology					
	Surface -watersheds				
	Ground				
	Wetlands				
	Reservoirs				
	Floodplains				
	Riparian Areas/Condition	Yes		Rip, PFC, etc. 2005. "I" allotments for most part – old data on "M" and "C" allotments (1997)	
	Wells				
Vegetation					
	Noxious Species	Yes	Yes	There is some information, but need to work on the meta data	
	Sage Brush	Yes		Univ. of MT remote sensing project	Require 1-2 months analysis for final
T&E Plants					
Base Info.	Sensitive Plants Plot Parcels			Not Needed Not Needed	
	Forest Health			Not Needed	
	Old Growth			Not Needed	
	Timber Management			Not Needed	

Soils					
Base Info. Analysis	SSURGO data	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available. (NRCS).	
	STATSGO Soils	Yes	Yes	Statewide layer available. (NRCS).	
Air					
	Class I Areas				
	Monitoring Locations				
	Climate Data				
Fire and Fuels					
Base info.	Forest Fuels Inventory				
	Non-Forest Fuels Inventory				
	Fire History Study				
	Fire Regime Condition				
Rangelands					
Base Info.	Rangeland Health	Yes		Needs to be converted from Access to GIS	
	Noxious Weeds	Yes	Yes	Partial information is available, but need to work on the metadata	
	Allotment Boundaries	Yes		Needs to be updated	
	Pasture Boundaries	No		Will not be needed	
	Rangeland Improve. Locations	Yes		Needs to be QAd and updated	
AML/Hazardous Materials					
Base Info.	Inventory/Assessment				
	HMM Inventory				
	Unauthorized dump sites				
Lands/Realty					
	Access (admin/public)				
	Transportation/Utility ROW Corridors				
	Ceded Lands				
	Withdrawals			Add classifications of withdrawals, where applicable.	
	Lands for disposal/Exchange				

	Adjacent conservation				
	Utility Corridors				
	ROWs (power lines, Pipelines, Roads				
	Communication Sites				
	Exclusion Areas				
	Leases and Permits (R&PP, 2920)				
	Unauth Use/Trespass				
Minerals, Oil and Gas					
	Geology –Surface Geology – Linear Features Geology – Bedrock			Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Maps Need to be snapped to base coverages.	
	Mineral Potential				
	Oil and Gas Potential				
	Mineral Material Sale Areas			None	
	Field Boundaries				
	Participating Area Boundaries				
	Communitization Agreements				
	Unit Boundaries				
	Wells				
	Federal Leases				
	EPCA				
	USGS Assessments				
Minerals, Solid					
	Potential Coal			Needs to be digitized	
	Coal Lease Areas			None	
	Current Leases			None	
Renewable Energy					
	Wind Energy Potential				

Recreation and Special Area Management					
	Travel Management	Yes		Determine whether or not we have legal access.	Realty staff, maybe seasonal
	Special Designations (Wild and Scenic Rivers)	No		Eligibility study- suitability study w/ RAC subgroup?	Seasonal 2008
	Pompey's Pillar			None.	
	Recreation Areas			SRMA ROS, need to determine where and why	
	ACECs	Yes			
	WSAs	Yes		Need to update boundaries for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	
	Visual Resource Management/ROS	In Progress		Mapping	Seasonal 2007
	Other Recreation			National trails, Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark - compile	
Transportation					
	Signs	No		Inventory- not needed.	
	OHV	Yes		Done, Shepherd and South Hills	
Cultural Resources					
	Class I and III Inventory	No	No	Cultural base maps digitized	
	Existing Information	No	No	Cultural base maps digitized	
	TCPs	No	No	Ethnographic report needed and information digitized	Contract
	Sacred/Special Importance	No	No	Ethnographic report needed and information digitized	Contract
Paleontology					
	Class I Inventory	No	No	Digitize all known sited, identify high probability areas	
Social/Economic					
	Environmental Justice Consideration			Indian Reservations	Create in-house.
	Wildland Urban Interface Areas			County	Create in-house.
	Communities at risk from Wildland Fire			County	Create in-house.
	Counties Losing Population			Tiger	
	Number of Economic Sectors by Counties			Tiger	

Wild Horses					
	PMWHPR Herd Area	Yes		None needed.	
	Use Areas	Yes		None needed.	
	Water Sources	Yes		None needed.	
	Fences and other RI Projects	Yes		None needed.	

APPENDIX 3*

Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
File Organization
(All Files to be Indexed)
BiFO and PPNM RMPs-EIS 1616.

File No.	File Name
.01	**Project Planning**
.011	Preparation Plan/Communication Plan
.012	Project Costs
.013	Regulations/Guidance
.02	**Internal BLM Correspondence**
.021	Washington Office
.022	State/Field Offices
.023	Solicitor's Office
.03	**External Correspondence**
.031	Federal Government (includes FWS correspondence & all federal comment letters)
.032	Congressional
.033	State Government (includes all state govt. comment letters)
.034	County Government (includes all county govt. comment letters)
.035	Organizations/Businesses
.036	General Public
.037	Resource Advisory Councils
.038	FOIA Requests
.04	**Public/Agency Involvement and Updates**
.041	News Releases/Briefing Statements/Newsletters/Talking Points
.0411	News Articles
.0412	Briefing Packets
.0413	Presentations (PowerPoint, Overhead)
.042	Scoping Open Houses
.043	Draft RMP Open Houses
.044	Federal Register Notices
.05	**Management/Core/ID Team Meetings**
.051	Meeting Notes/Schedules
.06	**Issue Identification**
.061	Issue Identification
.062	Scoping Public Comments/Log
.063	Scoping Content Analysis
.07	**Draft Resource Management Plan**
.071	Background Data by Discipline

.072 Formulation of Alternatives
.073 Estimation of Effects by Discipline
.074 Maps
.075 Draft Resource Management Plan
.076 Public Comments/Log
.077 Draft RMP Content Analysis

.08 Final Resource Management Plan
.081 Background Data by Discipline
.082 Identification of Preferred Alt.
.083 Final Resource Management Plan

.09 Record of Decision

*This is the index that is currently in use for the UMRBNM RMP. There is also an example appendix in the LUP Handbook.

APPENDIX 4

Montana/Dakotas BLM Sensitive Animal Species List

Approved 7/22/04

Amphibians and Reptiles

- Boreal/Western toad *(Bufo boreas)*
- Coeur d'Alene salamander *(Plethodon idahoensis)*
- Great Plains toad *(Bufo cognatus)*
- Greater short-horned lizard *(Phrynosoma hernandesi)*
- Milk snake *(Lampropeltis triangulum)*
- Northern leopard frog *(Rana pipiens)*
- Plains spadefoot *(Spea bombifrons)*
- Snapping turtle *(Chelydra serpentine)*
- Spiny softshell *(Apalone spinifera)*
- Western Hog-nosed snake *(Heterodon nasicus)*

Fishes

- Arctic grayling (fluvial population) *(Thymallus arcticus) – Thymallus arcticus montanus?*
- Blue sucker *(Cycleptus elongatus)*
- Northern redbelly X Finescale dace *(Phoxinus eos x phoxinus neogaeus)*
- Paddlefish *(Polyodon spathula)*
- Pearl dace *(Semotilus/Margariscus margarita)*
- Sauger *(Stizostedion canadense)*
- Shortnose gar *(Lepisosteus platostomus)*
- Sicklefin chub *(Macrhybopsis meeki)*
- Sturgeon chub *(Macrhybopsis gelida)*
- Westslope cutthroat trout *(Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi)*
- Yellowstone cutthroat trout *(Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri)*

Mammals

- *Bats*
  Townsend's big-eared bat *(Corynorhinus/Plecotus townsendii)*
  Spotted bat *(Euderma maculatum)*
  Fringe-tailed myotis *(Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis)*
  Fringed myotis *(Myotis thysanodes)*
  Long-legged myotis *(Myotis volans)*
  Long-eared myotis *(Myotis evotis)*
  Northern myotis *(Myotis septentrionalis)*
  Pallid bat *(Antrozous pallidus)*
- Fisher *(Martes pennanti)*
- Great Basin pocket mouse *(Perognathus parvus)*
- North American wolverine *(Gulo gulo luscus)*
- *Prairie dog*
  Black-tailed prairie dog *(Cynomys ludovicianus)*
  White-tailed prairie dog *(Cynomys leucurus)*
- Pygmy rabbit *(Brachylagus idahoensis)*
- Swift fox *(Vulpes velox)*
- Western spotted skunk *(Spilogale gracilis)*

Birds

- Black tern *(Chilodonias niger)*
- Blue-gray gnatcatcher *(Polioptila caerulea)*
- Burrowing owl *(Athene/Speotyto cunicularia)*
- Common loon *(Gavia immer)*
- Dickcissel *(Spiza americana)*
- Ferruginous hawk *(Buteo regalis)*
- Flammulated owl *(Otus flammeolus)*
- Franklin's gull *(Larus pipixcan)*
- Golden eagle *(Aquila chrysaetos)*
- Great gray owl *(Strix nebulosa)*
- Greater sage-grouse *(Centrocercus urophasianus)*
- Harlequin duck *(Histrionicus histrionicus)*
- Loggerhead shrike *(Lanius ludovicianus)*
- Long-billed curlew *(Numenius americanus)*
- *Longspur*
  Chestnut-collared Longspur *(Calcarius ornatus)*
  McCown's longspur *(Calcarius mccownii)*
- Marbled godwit *(Limosa fedoa)*
- Mountain plover *(Charadrius montanus)*
- Northern goshawk *(Accipiter gentiles)*
- Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)*
- Sage thrasher *(Oreoscoptes montanus)*
- *Sparrows*
  Baird's sparrow *(Ammodramus bairdii)*
  Brewer's sparrow *(Spizella breweri)*
  LeConte's sparrow *(Ammodramus leconteii)*
  Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrow *(Ammodramus nelsoni)*
  Sage sparrow *(Amphispiza belli)*
- Sedge wren *(Cistothorus platensis)*
- Sprague's pipit *(Anthus spragueii)*
- Swainson's hawk *(Buteo swainsonii)*
- Trumpeter swan *(Cygnus buccinator)*
- White-faced ibis *(Plegadis chihi)*
- Willet *(Cataptrophorus semipalmatus)*
- Wilson's phalarope *(Phalaropus tricolor)*
- *Woodpeckers*
  Black-backed woodpecker *(Picoides arcticus)*
  Three-toed woodpecker *(Picoides tridactylus)*
  Red-headed woodpecker *(Melanerpes erythrocephalus)*
- Yellow rail *(Coturnicops noveboracensis)*

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
100 N. PARK, SUITE 320
HELENA, MT 59601
PHONE (406) 449-5225, FAX (406) 449-5339

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES
MONTANA COUNTIES
Endangered Species Act

September 2004

C = Candidate
LT = Listed Threatened
LE = Listed Endangered
PCH = Proposed Critical Habitat
CH = Designated Critical Habitat
XN = Experimental non-essential population

County/Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
BIG HORN		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE
CARBON		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Ursus arctos horribilis	Grizzly Bear	LT
Canis lupus	Gray Wolf	XN
Lynx Canadensi	Canada Lynx	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE
GOLDEN VALLEY		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE
Lynx canadensis	Canada Lynx	LT
MUSSELSHELL		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE
STILLWATER		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Ursus arctos horribilis	Grizzly Bear	LT
Canis lupus	Gray Wolf	XN
Lynx canadensis	Canada Lynx	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE
SWEET GRASS		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Ursus arctos horribilis	Grizzly Bear	LT
Canis lupus	Gray Wolf	XN

Lynx canadensis	Canada Lynx	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE
WHEATLAND		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE
Lynx canadensis	Canada Lynx	LT
YELLOWSTONE		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	LT
Mustela nigripes	Black-footed Ferret	LE

BLM (Billings FO) Designated Plant Sensitive Species

Approved 07/18/2005

PLANTS	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Geyer milkvetch	*Astragalus geyeri*
Obscure evening-primrose	*Camissonia andina*
Small camissonia	*Camissonia parvula*
Miner's candle	*Cryptantha scoparia*
Smooth buckwheat	*Eriogonum salsuginosum*
Pryor Mountains bladderpod	*Lesquerella lesicii*
Desert dandelion	*Malacothrix torreyi*
Nama	*Nama densum*
Shoshonea	*Shoshonea pulvinata*
Adoxa moschatellina	*musk-root*
Arabis demissa var. languida	*Daggett rock cress*
Astragalus aretioides	*Sweetwater milkvetch*
Astragalus grayi	*Gray's milkvetch*
Astragalus oreganus	*Wind River milkvetch;*
Cleome lutea	*yellow bee plant*
Grayia spinosa	*spiny hopsage*
Leptodactylon caespitosum	*mat prickly phlox*
Mentzelia pumila	*soft blazingstar*
Poa curta	*short-leaved bluegrass*
Potentilla plattensis	*Platte cinquefoil*
Haplopappus carthamoides var. subsquarrosus	*Beartooth large-flowered goldenweed*
Rorippa calycina	*Persistent-sepal Yellow-cress*

APPENDIX 5

River & Creek Systems – Miles of Riparian

Billings Field Office Riparian Condition (flowing water- lotic)

MILES								
FO Code	*Field Office Name*	*PFC*	*FAR*	*FAR*	*FAR*	*NF*	Unknown	Total
	Apparent Trend		(up)	(?)	(down)			
MT-010	Billings	57	9	52	6	8	12	144

Condition Rating Legend:
PFC= Proper Functioning Condition
FAR= Functioning At Risk
NF = Nonfunctional (Unhealthy)
(?) = Unknown Trend
Results based on BLM inventories from 1997 through 2004.

2005 RIPARIAN INVENTORY for "I" Category Allotment Riparian Areas

Miles								
FO Code	*Field Office Name*	*PFC*	*FAR*	*FAR*	*FAR*	*FAR*	*NF*	Total
	Apparent Trend		(up)	(?)	(down)	(Static)		
MT-010	Billings	18.59	1	3.55	14.04	14.35	9.7	61.32

Results from Contract with Bitterroot Restoration.
Total Riparian Miles in Inventory: 61.23
Total Size of Summary Set (Acres): 513.04
Summary Set Weighted Average Final Average Final Score: 75%
Summary Set Weighted Average Final Category: Functional At Risk (Healthy, but with Problems)
Note: Lentic (standing water- wetland) inventory has not been conducted in this Field Office.