



Fact Sheet 1

Malta Resource Management Plan

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Malta Field Office, Montana



October 2006

Guide to the Four Fact Sheets

- Fact Sheet 1 RMP Process
- Fact Sheet 2 How You Can Participate
- Fact Sheet 3 Preliminary Planning Issues
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WHAT IS THE RMP PROCESS?

A resource management plan (RMP) provides comprehensive, long-term direction concerning the use and management of resources managed by BLM. Our objective is to establish management goals and objectives to maintain, develop, and protect the resource values of BLM administered land within the field office's planning area. This new plan will be developed over the next three years and will replace the current West HiLine and Judith-Valley-Phillips Resource Management Plans. The new Malta RMP will guide the Bureau's management of public lands to ensure healthy ecosystems, promote multiple use, and develop natural resources for present and future generations.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? AN ACRONYM GUIDE FOR THE RMP REVISION.

The Malta Field Office is undertaking a revision of its RMPs. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will also be included as part of the revision. Fact Sheet 2 contains a guide to the revision process. Below are commonly used terms:

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) – is our country's charter for protection of the environment. It requires all federal agencies to evaluate the impact of proposed major federal actions (in this case the RMP revision) with respect to their significance on the human environment.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) – governs administration of public lands by the BLM. The act establishes the commitment to retain ownership of public

lands, improve deteriorated lands, and manage lands to ensure productive capacity in perpetuity.

Resource Management Plan (RMP) – the purpose of the RMP is to establish goals and objectives for resource management; identify lands that are open and available for certain uses and lands that are closed for certain uses; provide comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses; and contain broad scale decisions guiding future site-specific implementation decisions.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – is one type of document prepared by federal agencies in compliance with NEPA which describes the potential environmental consequences of proposed major federal actions (in this case the RMP revision).

Analysis of Management Situation (AMS) – is an in-depth assessment of various resources and uses on public lands. The AMS Summary presents an overview of the resources, current management practices, and issues identified to date.

Scoping - is the process that federal agencies use to identify public and agency issues and concerns relating to management actions on federal lands. Scoping is the process of identifying the range of issues, management concerns, preliminary alternatives, and other components of an EIS and RMP.

Preliminary Planning Issues — represent the BLM's knowledge to date on issues with the existing RMP.

For more information or to comment, contact:

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www.mt.blm.gov/mafo/rmp



Fact Sheet 2

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How You Can Participate in the Resource Management Plan Process

Throughout the revision process, there will be several opportunities for you to comment and provide your input. Public involvement is an essential part of the process. With public involvement and environmental analysis, the NEPA process will support the BLM in making informed decisions.

To the right is a diagram of the planning process and below is a description of the ways you can participate at different times in the process.

30-Day Scoping Period— The scoping period began with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on September 6, 2006. Although the BLM Resource Management Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.2) include a minimum 30-day scoping period, the RMP scoping period is extended and will close on November 8, 2006. A series of public meetings will be held throughout the planning area to provide you with information and solicit your comments and input.

90-Day Public Comment Period — After the Draft EIS is published (July/August 2008), you will have an opportunity to provide comments and input again.

30-Day Protest Period — After the Final EIS and RMP are released you have an opportunity to protest the selected management alternatives.

Newsletters — Throughout the planning process, we will be sending those of you on the mailing list schedule updates, opportunities for public input, and other relevant information.

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BLM RMP Website — we have created a RMP website at www.mt.blm.gov/mafo/rmp where you can find up to date information on the RMP process and upcoming events or key documents. Additionally, you may send comments directly to our project specific email address MT_Malta_RMP@blm.gov.

Where do we go from here?

Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register

Preparation of the Analysis of Management Situation

Min. 30-day Public Scoping

Formulation of Alternatives

Preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

90-day Public Comment Period

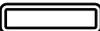
Preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan

Record of Decision and Final Resource Management Plan

30-day Protest Period / 60-day Governor's Consistency Review

Resource Management Plan Implementation

 Shading indicates steps completed



Fact Sheet 3

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What Issues are We Considering in the Resource Management Plan Revision?

We are interested in considering important and pertinent issues in the development of the RMP for the Malta Field Office Planning Area. Issues represent opportunities, conflicts, or problems about use or management of public land resources. The resolution of issues is the basis for preparing the RMP. Below is a list of the preliminary planning issues we are considering so far. Other issues are identified in the Analysis of Management Situation (AMS) Summary. If you feel there are additional issues that we have not considered, please contact us by the means indicated below.

Preliminary Planning Issues

- A. Energy Development – (fluid minerals- oil and gas; alternative – wind);
- B. Vegetation Management;
- C. Wildlife Management;
- D. Special Status Species;
- E. Water, Watersheds and Wetland Areas;
- F. Travel Management and Access;
- G. Special Management Area Designation;
- H. Commercial Uses;
- I. Land Ownership Adjustments;
- J. Livestock grazing;
- K. Visual Resource Management; and,
- L. Air and water quality.

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Fact Sheet 4

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 **Fact Sheet 4 RMP Topics**

WHAT TOPICS ARE WE CONSIDERING IN THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION?

The BLM manages and administers resources and uses throughout the planning area. To comment on these resources or uses go to www.mt.blm.gov/mafo/rmp

Physical and Biological Resources

Air Quality — Includes overall air quality and emissions and can include smoke and dust.

Cultural Resources — Includes historic and prehistoric artifacts, buildings, structures, mines, trails, railroads, ditches, trash dumps, historic landscapes, and archeological sites. Cultural resources may also include Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP), which are properties that are critical to a living community's beliefs, customs, and practices.

Fish and Wildlife — Includes species of fish and fisheries habitat in streams, lakes, and ponds. Also includes vertebrate wildlife species that occur in the planning area including reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Does not include threatened, endangered, sensitive, or other special status species.

Geology — Includes physiography, earthquakes, landslides, topography, floods, snowslides, and slumps.

Paleontology— Includes fossils, dinosaur remains, paleontological digs, and research permits.

Special Status Species — Includes plant and animal species that are listed as threatened or endangered in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. Also includes BLM-designated sensitive species.

Soil — Includes soil disturbance from mineral extraction, erosion and surface runoff

Vegetation — Includes grassland and shrubland communities, riparian and wetland communities, woodland and forest communities and invasive non-native plant species. Does not include special status plants.

Visual Resources — Includes scenic views, visual quality, visual resource management (VRM), and overlooks.

Water — Includes water quality and quantity.

Resource Uses

Minerals — Includes coal, coalbed methane, oil and gas, locatable minerals (such as uranium and bentonite), and salable minerals (such as sand, gravel, and decorative stone).

Lands and Realty — Includes rights-of-way for pipelines, utilities and roads, land acquisition and disposal, easements, withdrawals, land use authorizations and trespass identification and abatement.

Livestock Grazing — Includes grazing allotment issues, grazing leases, range improvement projects, livestock fences, livestock reservoirs, springs, water wells, and vegetative treatments.

Recreation — Includes sight-seeing, touring, hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, photography, wildlife viewing, camping, fishing and hunting.

Renewable Energy — Includes wind energy, geothermal resources, solar power/energy, and other sources.

Transportation and Access — Includes mass transit, access to public lands, and infrastructure management.

Fire Management — Includes naturally occurring fires and prescribed burns, as well as fire suppression techniques.

Special Designations — May include designations such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), National Historic Trails, Recreation Management Areas, and Wilderness Study Areas.

Social and Economic Conditions — Includes health and safety issues, economic development, and environmental justice.

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