



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Buffalo Field Office  
1425 Fort Street  
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834-2436

August 7, 2008

Dear Reader/Interested Party:

I am pleased to announce the availability of the Buffalo Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment (RMPA/EA) for the Fortification Creek Planning Area. The RMPA/EA addresses management issues within a 100,655 acre area in Campbell, Sheridan and Johnson Counties in Northeastern Wyoming.

The attached Draft RMPA/EA analyzes three alternatives: (1) No Action, in which coal bed natural gas (CBNG) development and other resources would be managed under existing land use planning decisions; (2) CBNG development would be allowed under additional management decisions to protect certain wildlife species and their habitat, to protect erodible soils, and would designate an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) that would encompass approximately 52,000 acres, and (3) CBNG development would be allowed under additional management decisions to protect certain wildlife species, to protect erodible soils, and would designate a citizen's proposed ACEC that would encompass approximately 33,750 acres.

The RMPA/EA has been prepared in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The document has been sent to members of the public who requested a copy and to pertinent local, State, Tribal and Federal government entities.

This Draft RMPA/EA will be circulated for a 60-day public comment period. All comments must be postmarked within 60 days from date of the *Notice of Availability* of the RMPA/EA in the Federal Register. Federal Register publication was today August 7; therefore comments must be postmarked by October 7. All substantive issues raised during the comment period will be considered and modifications based on these comments may be made to the document for inclusion in the Proposed RMPA/EA.

Additional hard copies and CD-ROM versions of the RMPA may be obtained by contacting the Buffalo Field Office at the address above. The document will also be available on the internet at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/buffalo/>.

We are pleased to provide this copy of the Buffalo RMPA/EA for your reference and extend our appreciation for your cooperation and assistance during this process. We look forward to your continued participation.

Sincerely,

Chris E. Hanson  
Buffalo Field Manager