

SCOPING STATEMENT – CODY SHOOTING COMPLEX EXPANSION PROJECT

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management's Cody Field Office has received an application from Park County requesting title to the Cody Shooting Complex, located on BLM-administered public lands about three miles northwest of Cody, Wyo.

County officials would like to take ownership of the facility, under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, and want to acquire some adjacent lands needed for the Complex's future expansion. The BLM currently leases 320 acres to Park County for the entire facility, which is operated and managed under a sublease with the Cody Shooting Complex Board, Inc.

Members of the shooting complex and the general public use the facility for firearm-related activities, including rifle, skeet, sporting clays, trap, and handgun shooting. Extensive use of the existing complex has prompted the Park County to propose approximately 355 additional acres for its expansion. An expansion could allow for more shooting ranges, especially one dedicated to general public use. Please see the attached maps showing the expansion area.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The BLM has begun an analysis of the proposal in accordance with the requirements of NEPA. To comply with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, which implement NEPA, the BLM is required to prepare an environmental analysis. The environmental document will serve several purposes. It will provide both the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives; and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project.

One element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities apply mostly to the public land associated with the proposed project and are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Scoping Meeting:

An open-house public meeting will be held to provide interested members of the public with further information about the proposed project and to allow them to submit scoping comments to the BLM. BLM specialists and members of the Cody Shooting Complex Board will be available at the open house, as will copies of the scoping notice and maps. This meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Cody Field Office
1002 Blackburn Ave.
Thursday, February 3, 2005
5:00-7:00 PM

Additionally a tour of the facility and proposed expansion area on Saturday, February 5 is planned. Parties interested in attending the tour will need to sign up for the trip at the open house or by calling the Cody Field Office.

307.578.5917

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

Individuals wishing to withhold their name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, may request confidentiality by prominently stating so at the beginning of their written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comments are due by close of business on March 3, 2005. Please submit your written comments to:

Duane Feick
BLM – Cody Field Office
PO Box 518
Cody, WY 82414

E-mail: cody_wymail@blm.gov

Additional information will be posted on <http://www.wy.blm.gov/cyfo>

Michael Blymyer, Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Cody Field Office
Box 518
1002 Blackburn Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Sincerely,

Michael J. Blymyer
Field Manager, Cody