



# Buffalo Resource Management Plan Revision



Dear Neighbor,

November 2008

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Buffalo Field Office (BFO), Wyoming is revising its Resource Management Plan (RMP) and preparing an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The RMP revision will replace the existing Buffalo RMP of 1985. The purpose of the RMP revision will be to establish goals and objectives for resource management; identify lands that are open or available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses; provide comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses; and contain broad scale decisions guiding future site-specific implementation decisions.

The revised RMP is being developed to provide future direction for managing approximately 800,000 acres of public lands and 5.7 million acres of mineral estate in north-central Wyoming. The planning area includes Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties. This area contains vast deposits of oil, gas and coal, in addition to providing a variety of resources such as wildlife habitat and rangelands for livestock grazing. The public lands and adjacent Bighorn National Forest provide many opportunities for recreational activities.

## What's Next?

This is the first planning bulletin in a series designed to provide you with information on what is happening in the Buffalo RMP revision process. These planning bulletins should keep you current on issues and events during the RMP revision.

An integral part of developing the Buffalo RMP is public involvement. Scoping is a process by which BLM solicits input from the public and other interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the RMP revision and the methods by which they will be examined. The official scoping period began with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to revise the Buffalo RMP in the *Federal Register* on November 14, 2008.

The BFO has scheduled five public scoping meetings (see the back page for times and locations). These meetings are scheduled to provide an opportunity for you to comment on development of the Buffalo RMP revision. While the formal public scoping period will end on January 5, 2009, your comments and questions are always welcome.

Thank you for your interest in the Buffalo RMP revision. I invite you to remain involved throughout the RMP revision process.

Sincerely,

Chris Hanson  
Bureau of Land Management  
Buffalo Field Office Manager

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN RMP AND AN EIS?

An RMP is a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions concerning the use and management of resources administered by the BLM. The RMP will:

- establish goals and objectives for resource management and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives,
- identify lands that are open and available for certain uses, including any restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses, and
- provide comprehensive management direction for all resources and uses.

In order to revise the RMP, BLM is required by Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act to prepare an EIS. The EIS analyzes the environmental impacts of a number of management alternatives, including a no action alternative and preferred alternative. Each alternative represents a potential RMP.

### WHY IS THE BLM REVISING THE RMP?

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires the BLM to develop RMPs and update/revise them when appropriate. The revision process approach includes building on experience, applying new science, and working with collaborators.

### WHEN CAN I COMMENT?

Several official comment periods will occur throughout the RMP revision process, the first being the public scoping period. The public scoping period began with the publication of the NOI to revise the Buffalo RMP in the *Federal Register* on November 14, 2008 and will close January 5, 2009. You may submit your comments in writing, by phone, by email, or by attending a public scoping meeting during this time. BLM is open to accepting comments at anytime during the RMP revision process.

***Increased public participation results in a more comprehensive environmental document.***

**How to Get Involved in the Buffalo RMP Process:**

- Attend a public scoping meeting (schedule below)
- Submit comments via phone, mail, or email
- Visit the BLM Buffalo RMP Revision website for more information
- Return the enclosed postcard
- During the formal scoping period, BLM is available to discuss scoping and the full RMP process

**For More Information Contact:**

RMP Project Manager: Linda Slone  
 Phone: 307-261-7520  
 Email: [BRMP\\_Rev\\_WYMail@blm.gov](mailto:BRMP_Rev_WYMail@blm.gov)  
 RMP Revision Website: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>  
 Buffalo Field Office Address: 1425 Fort Street,  
 Buffalo, WY 82834

**Public Scoping Meetings Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday, December 1, 2008 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Wright, Wyoming	<b>Wright Branch Public Library</b> 105 Wright Blvd, Wright, Wyoming 82732
Tuesday, December 2, 2008 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Buffalo, Wyoming	<b>Johnson County Library, Meeting Room</b> 171 North Adams, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
Wednesday, December 3, 2008 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Gillette, Wyoming	<b>Campbell County Library, Wyoming Room</b> 2101 South 4 J Road, Gillette, Wyoming 82718
Thursday, December 4, 2008 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Sheridan, Wyoming	<b>Sheridan County Library, Inner Circle Meeting Room</b> 315 West Alger, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
Friday, December 5, 2008 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Kaycee, Wyoming	<b>Kaycee Community Library</b> 231 Ritter Street, Kaycee, Wyoming 82639

Formal presentations on the project will take place at 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**BLM Buffalo Field Office**  
 ATTN: RMP Project Manager  
 1425 Fort Street  
 Buffalo, WY 82834

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
 UNITED STATES POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 PERMIT NO. G-76